

House Keeping



WE WILL BE RECORDING THIS
PRESENTATION AND PROVIDING
CAPTIONS



PLEASE BE SURE TO MUTE TO
REDUCE BACKGROUND NOISE



WE PLAN TO LEAVE TIME FOR
QUESTIONS AFTER EACH
PRESENTER AND AT THE END OF
THE PRESENTATION



YOU CAN TYPE YOUR
QUESTIONS IN THE CHAT OR
PRESS *6 TO UNMUTE ON THE
PHONE



Hello!

- Community members, to save time for your questions, please introduce yourself in the chat and before you ask a question.
 - Tell us what you love about the Lake and what you're most concerned about too.
- Our staff represent different programs and divisions within DEC:
 - Lakes and Ponds Program
 - Monitoring and Assessment Program
 - Watershed Planning Program

Lake Morey Clean Water Community Presentation

Presented by:

Danielle Owczarski, M.S. – Watershed Planner

Kellie Merrell, M.S. – Aquatic Biologist

Mark Mitchell, M.S. – Lakes Monitoring and
Community Outreach Coordinator

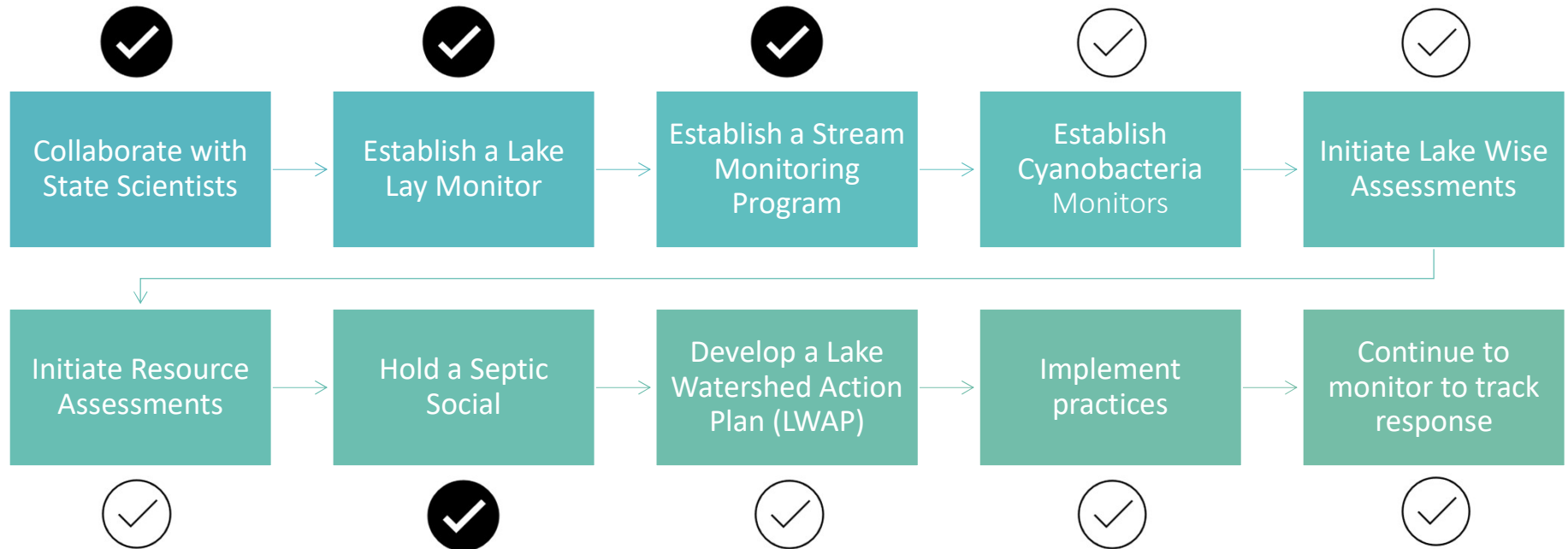
Peter Isles, Ph.D. – Aquatic Biologist



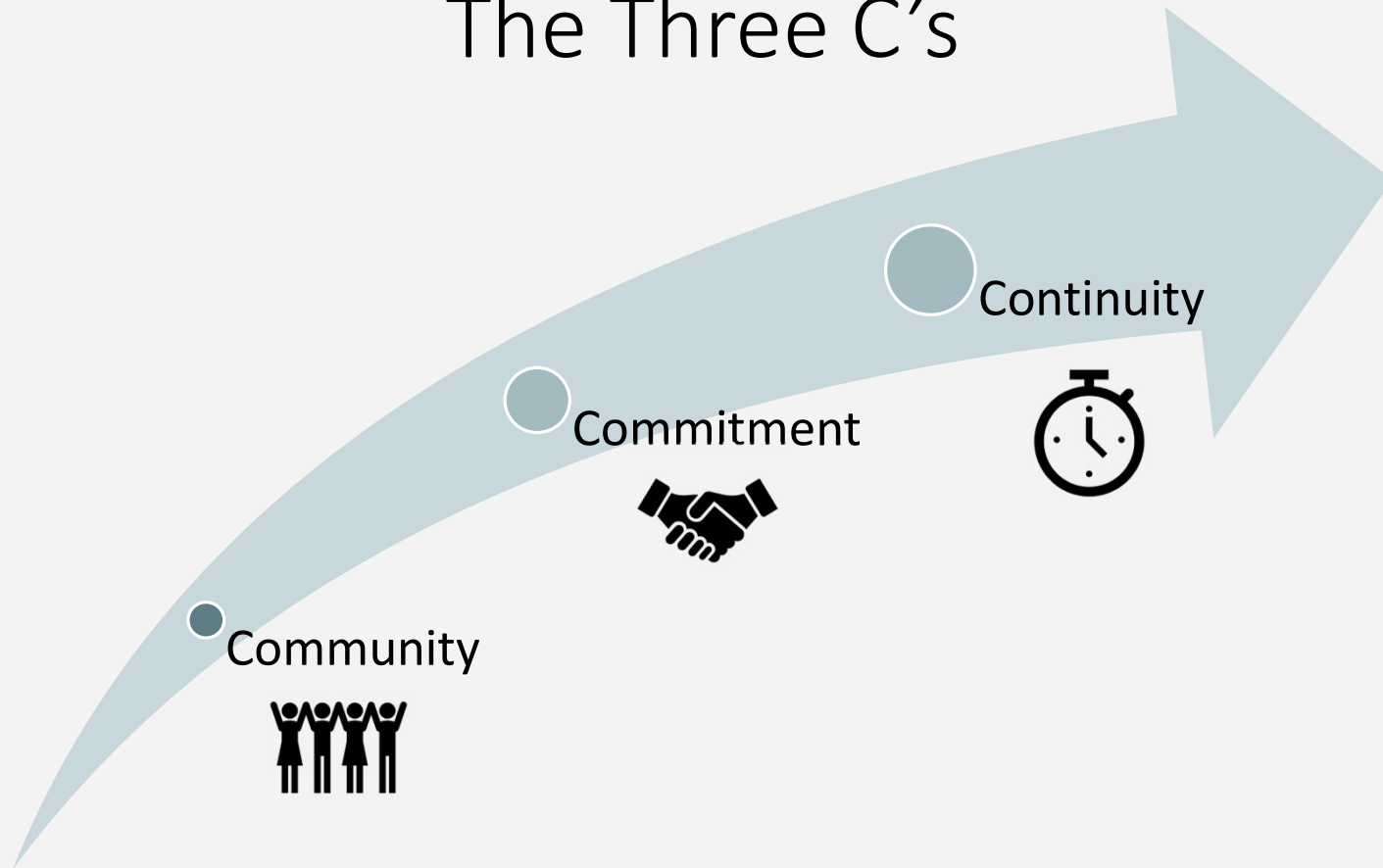


Special thanks to the
Lake Morey Commission
and the Town of Fairlee
for the in-lake and
stream sampling efforts

Community Actions for a Healthy Lake



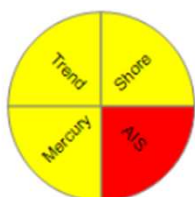
The Three C's



Lake Score Card (Note: Alum Treatment in 1986)

MOREY - data through 2020

[Learn How
Lakes Are
Scored](#)



Lake Area:
549.8 acres

Basin Lake Area Ratio: 9

Max Depth:
13.1 meters

Mean Spring TP:
21.1 ug/L

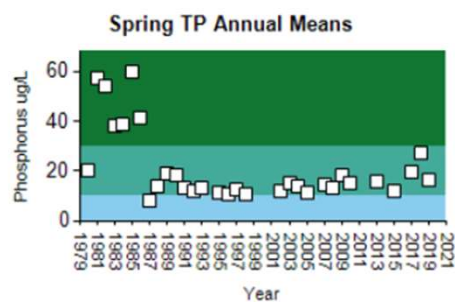
Mean Summer TP:
19.5 ug/L

Mean Summer Chla:
6.4 ug/L

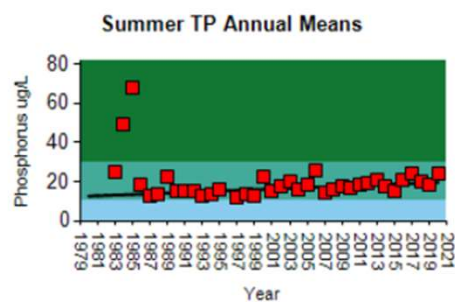
Mean Summer Secchi:
6.4 meters



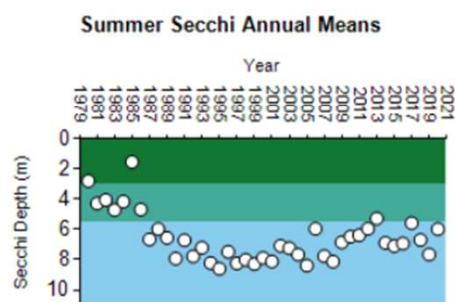
Spring TP Trend: $p = 0.1905$ | CV = 69
Stable



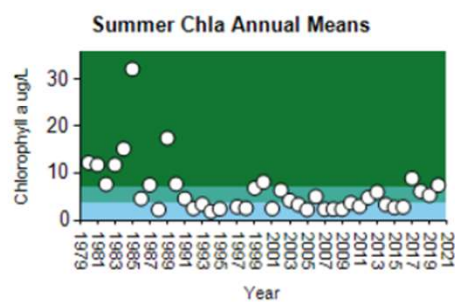
Summer TP Trend: $p = 0.0045$ | CV = 52
Highly significantly increasing



Summer Secchi Trend: $p = 0.6056$ | CV = 23
Stable



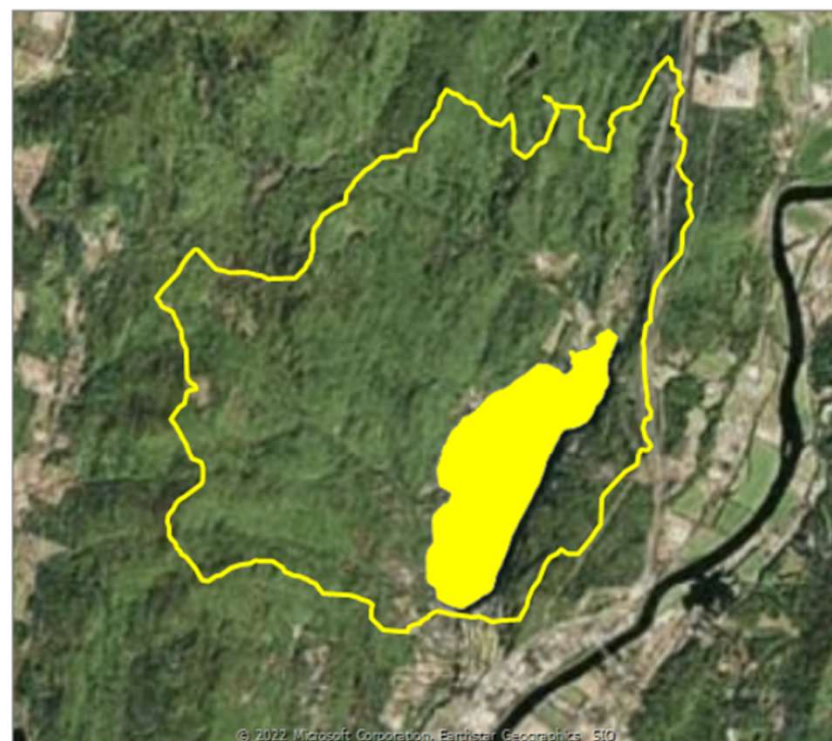
Summer Chla Trend: $p = 0.1865$ | CV = 92
Stable



Trend Score: **Fair**

WQ Standards Status: **Stressed**

Watershed Score: **Moderately Disturbed**



Stresses / Impairments

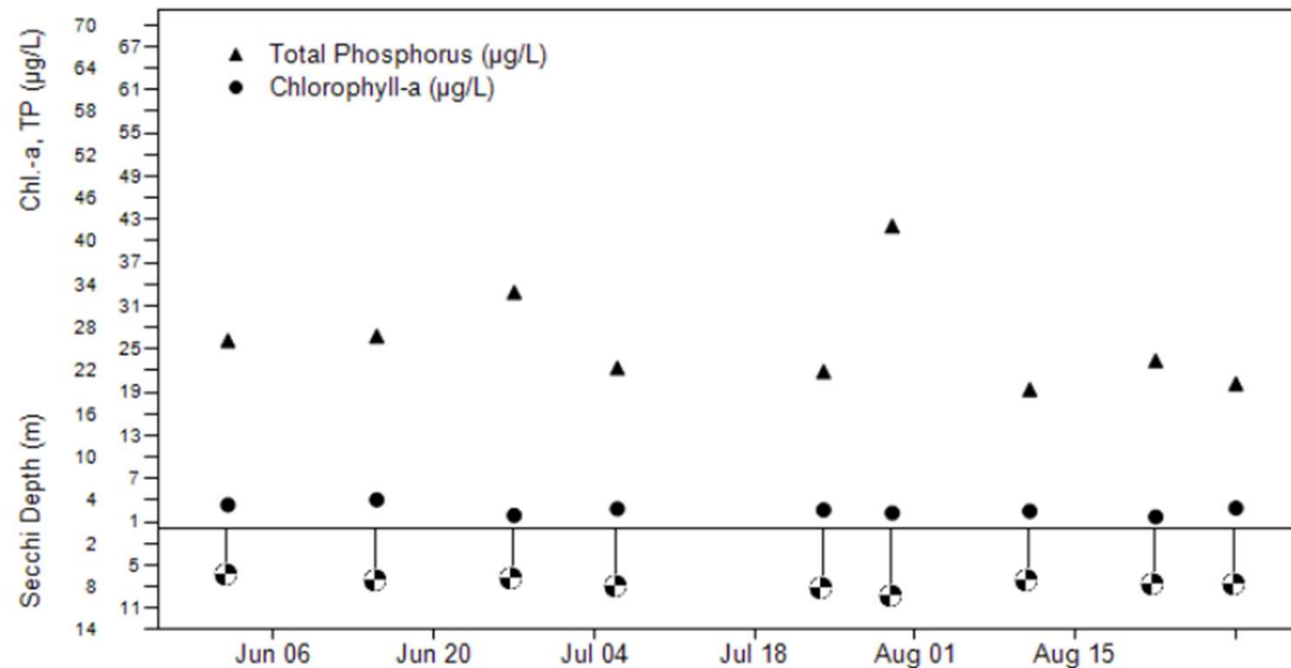
Stressed -- Phosphorus

2021 Spring Turnover & Summer Lay Monitoring Program (LMP) Results

2021 Summary (Station 1)

Parameter	Days	Min	Mean	Max
Secchi (m)	9	6.5	7.9	9.5
Chl-a ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	9	1.7	2.7	4.1
Summer TP ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	9	19.4	26.1	42.1
Spring TP ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	1		22.7	

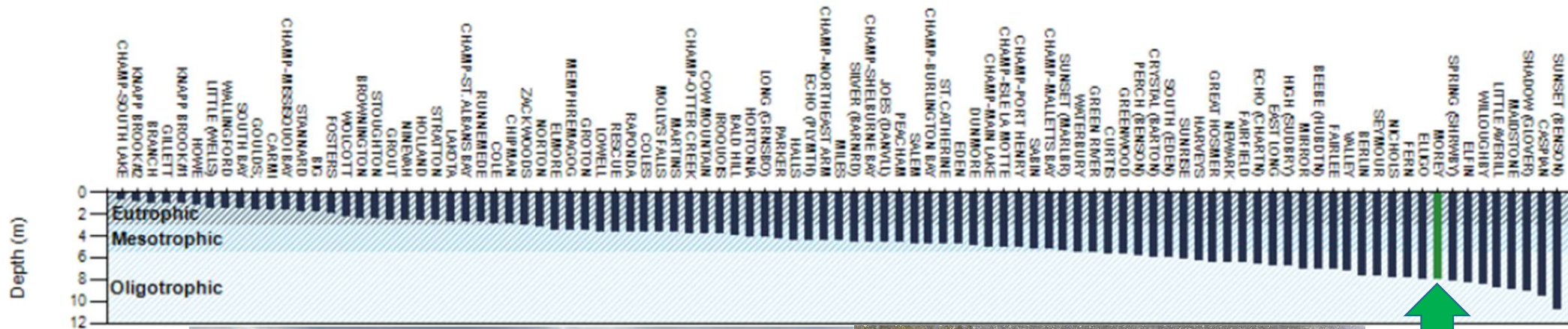
2021 Daily Values (Station 1): Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a, and Secchi Depth



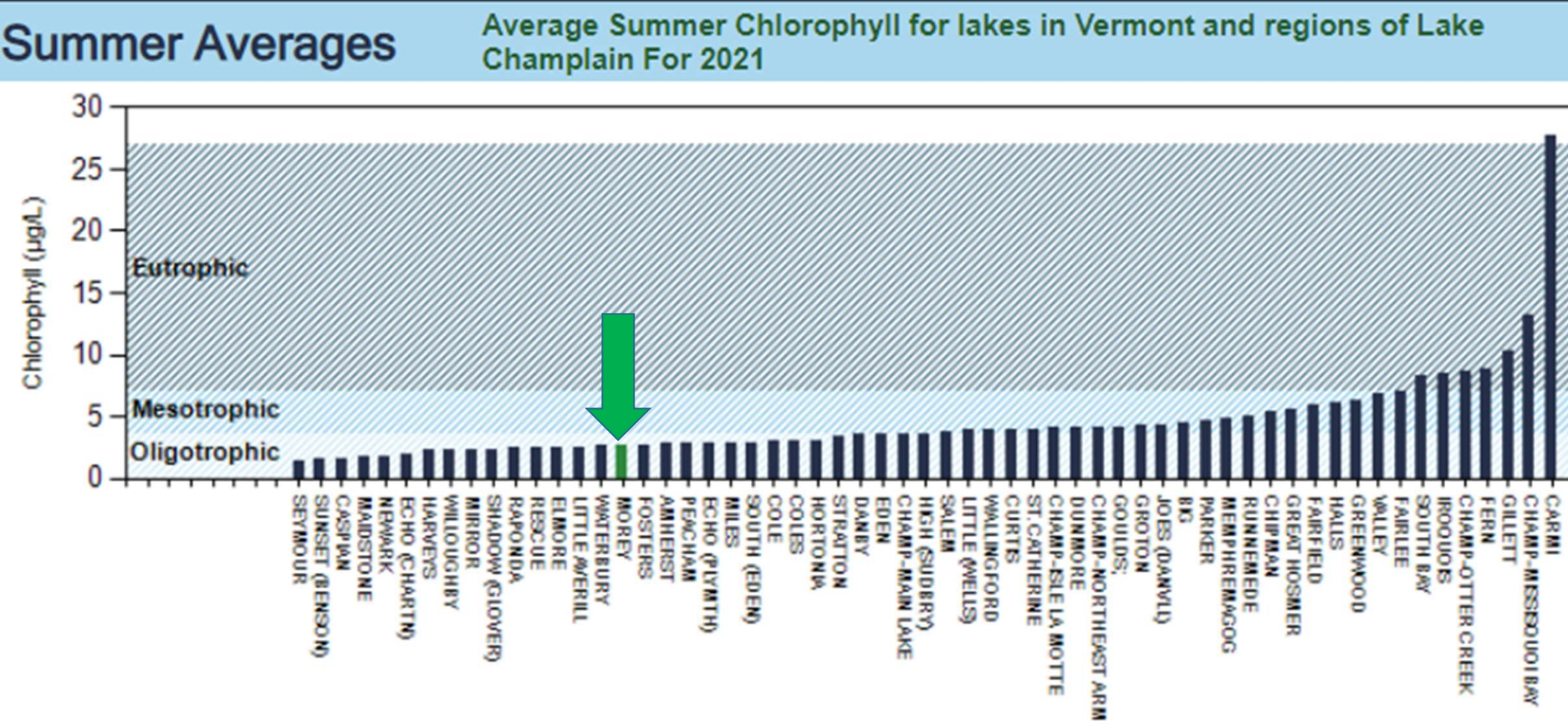
2021 LMP Secchi Depth Comparison for VT Lakes

Summer Averages

Average Summer Secchi Transparency for lakes in Vermont and regions of Lake Champlain For 2021



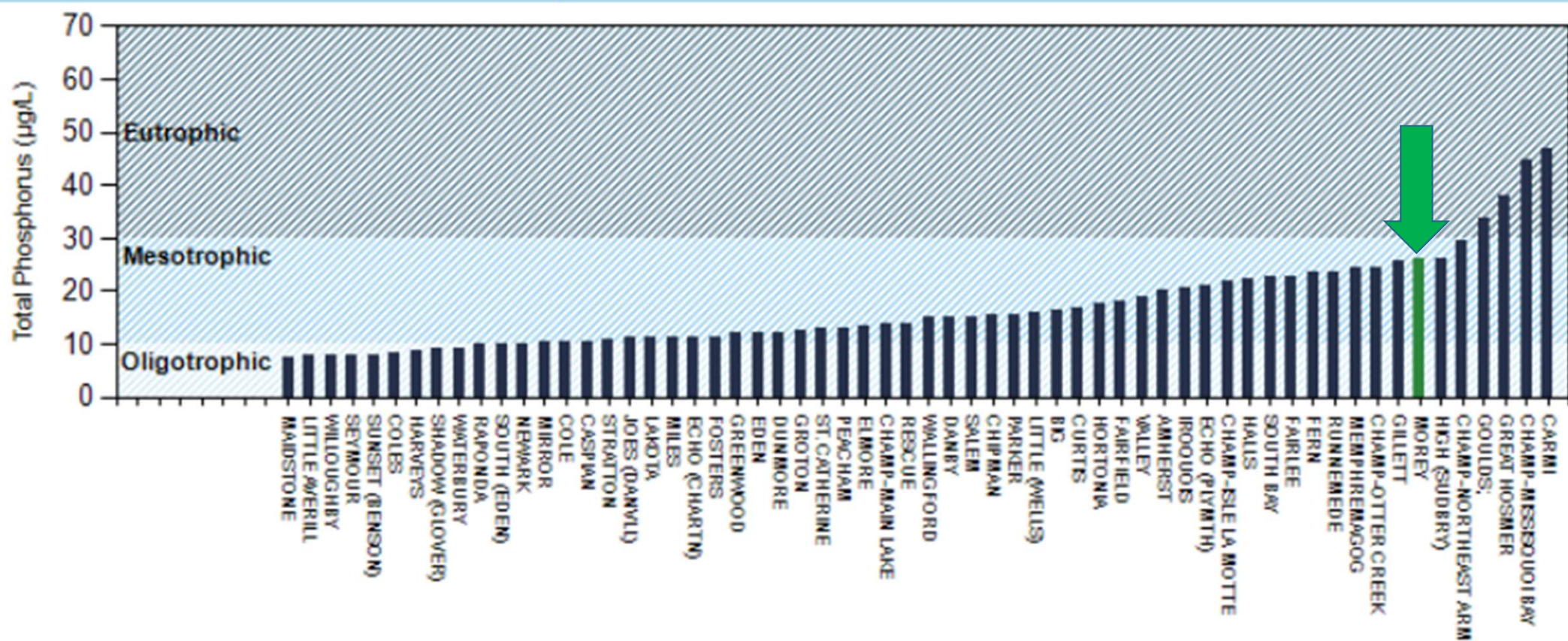
2021 LMP Chlorophyll-a Comparison for VT Lakes



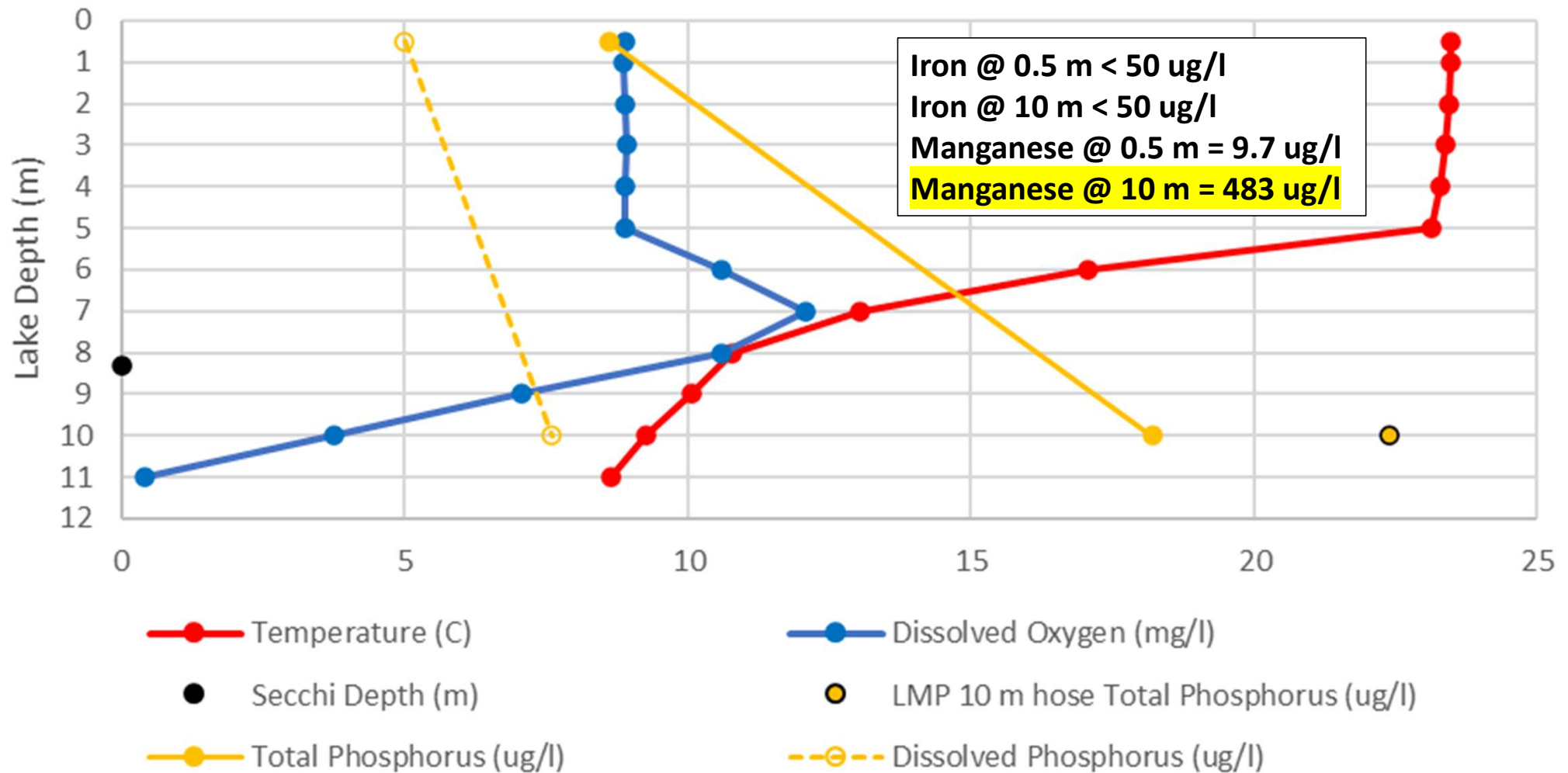
2021 LMP Phosphorus Comparison for VT Lakes

Summer Averages

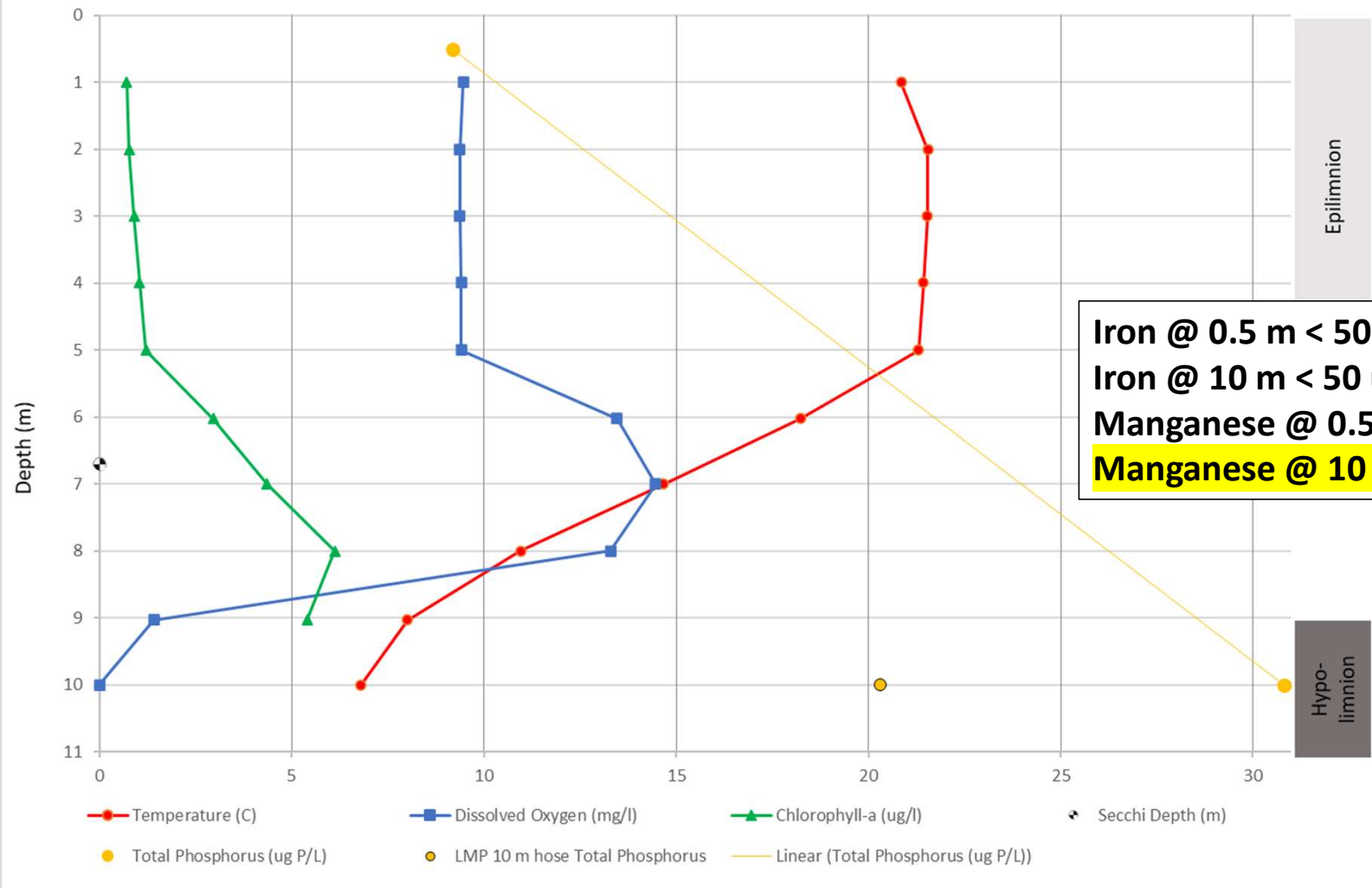
Average Summer Total Phosphorus for lakes in Vermont and regions of Lake Champlain For 2021



Lake Morey Station 1 Vertical Water Quality Profile 7/6/2021

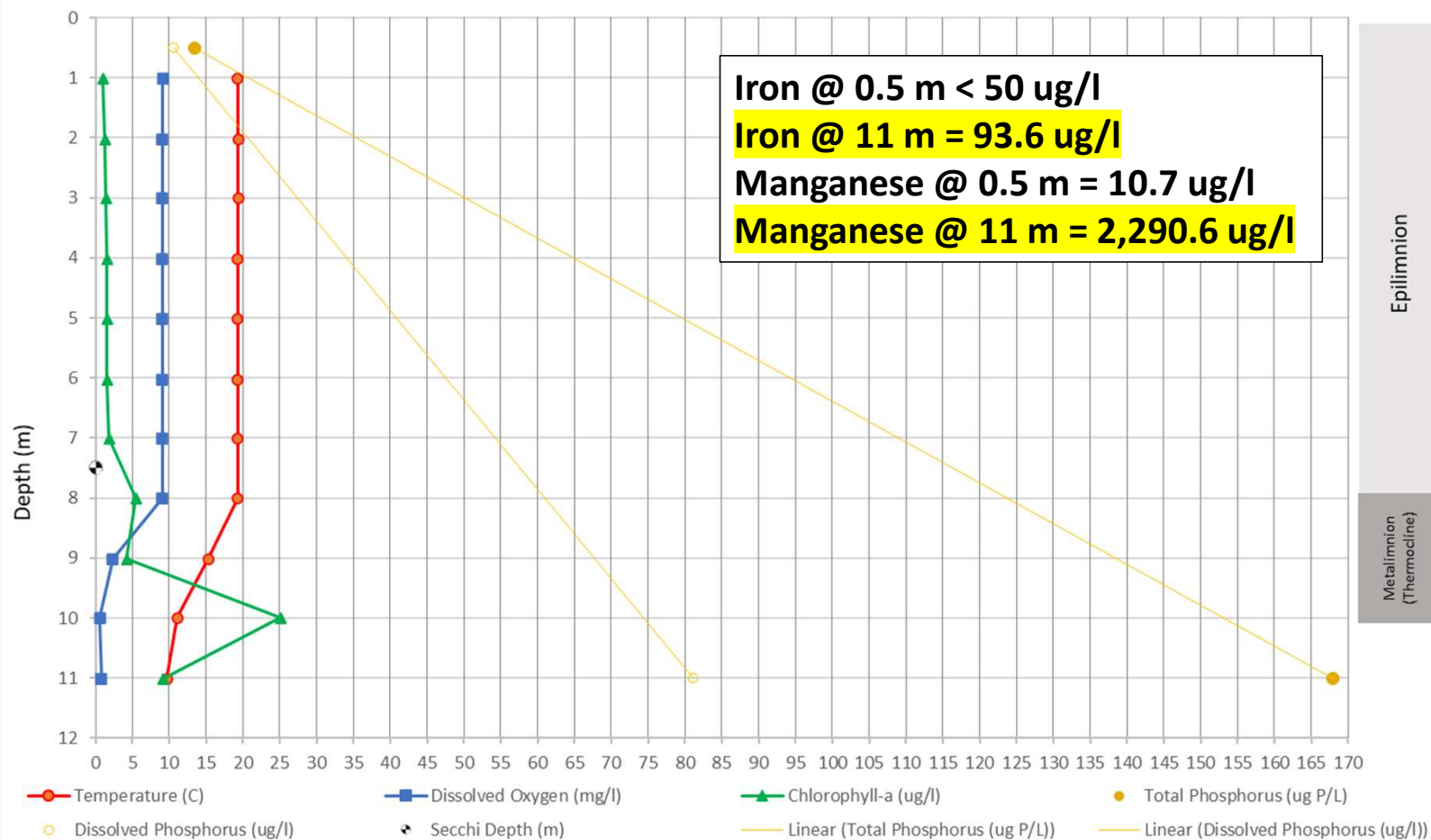


Lake Morey Station 1 Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Chlorophyll-a and Total Phosphorus
Vertical Profiles on 6/27/2018



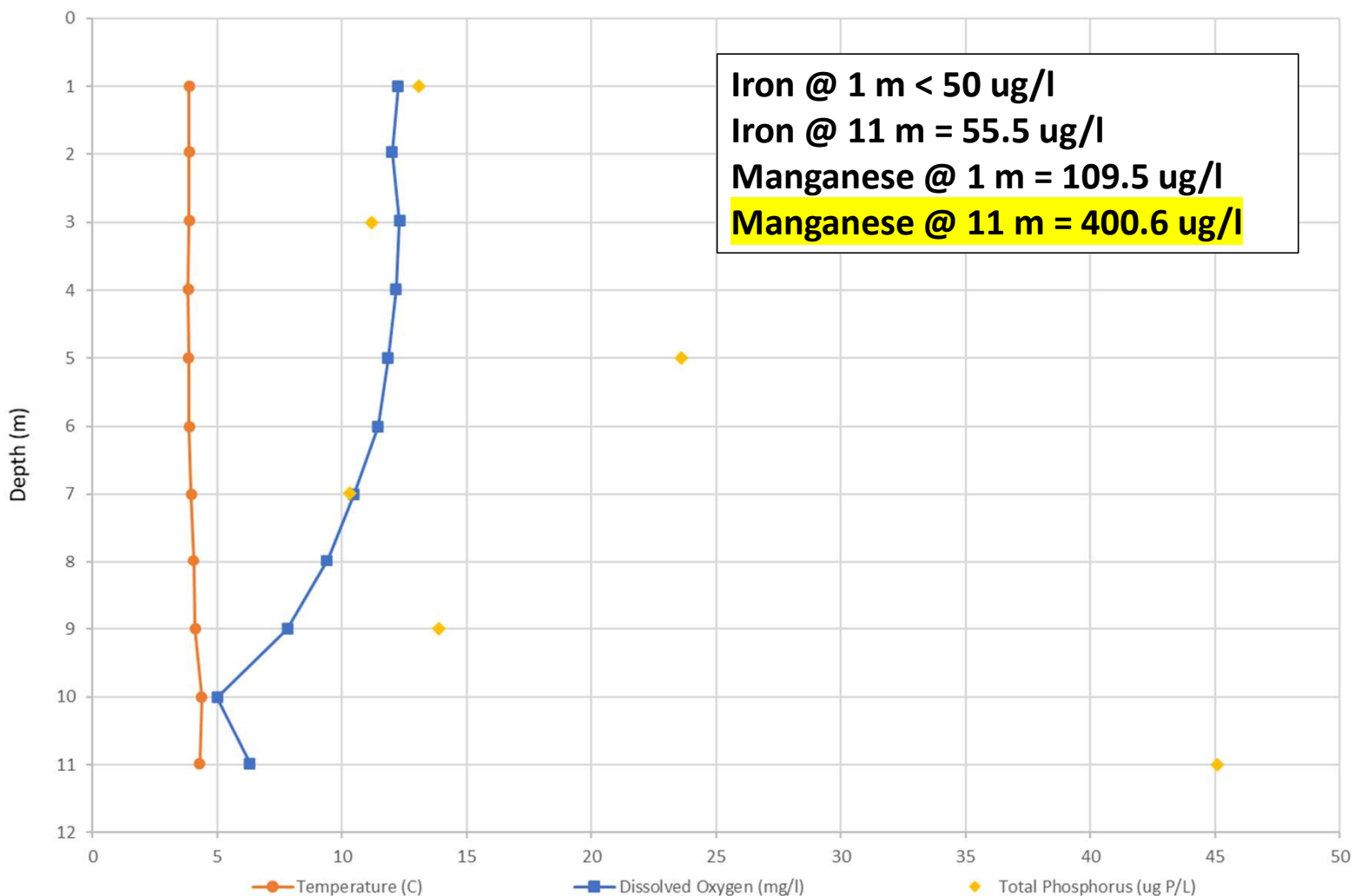
Iron @ 0.5 m < 50 ug/l
 Iron @ 10 m < 50 ug/l
 Manganese @ 0.5 m = 9.6 ug/l
 Manganese @ 10 m = 263 ug/l

Lake Morey Station 1 Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Chlorophyll-a and Phosphorus Vertical Profiles on 9/28/2018



Anoxia in the hypolimnion and large increase in phosphorus concentration from surface (0.5 m) to bottom (1 m above sediment) water indicates internal loading from sediments. Note the chlorophyll-a (algae/cyanobacteria) maximum in the hypolimnion.

Lake Morey Station 1 Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen
Profiles on 3/5/2018 (Under Ice Cover)



2022 Lay Monitoring Program Additions

- Lake depth (handheld sonar)
- Secchi view tube (Aqua Scope)
- Surface bottle grab samples
 - total phosphorus
 - chlorophyll-a
 - caffeine (septic indicator)
- Cyanobacteria monitoring?



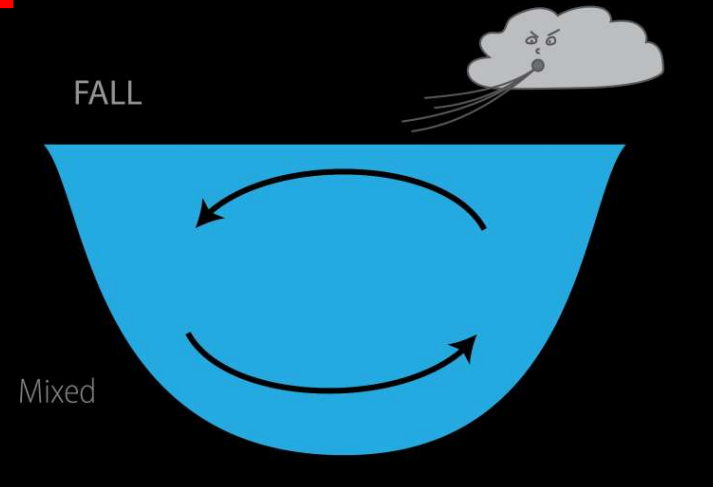
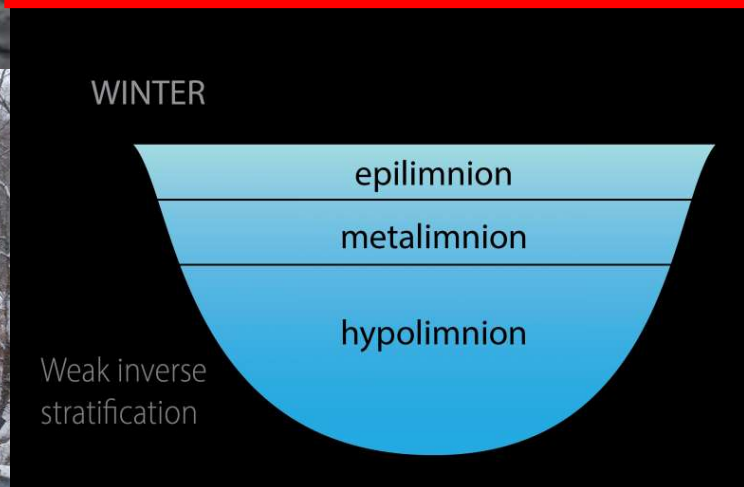
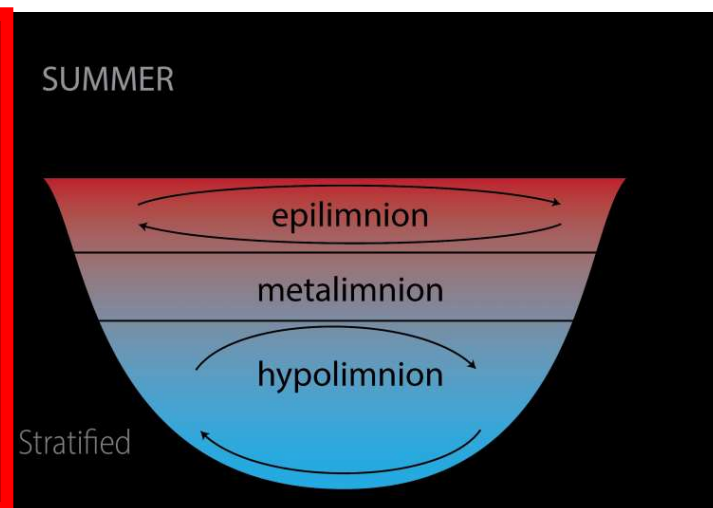
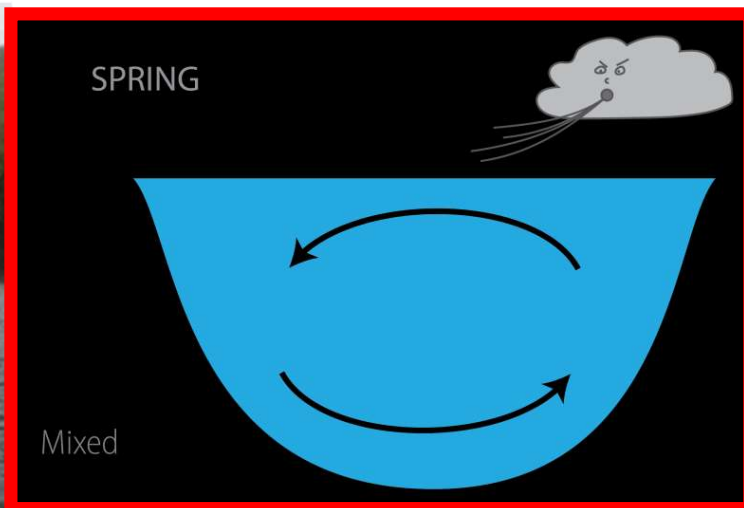


Figure of lake mixing curtesy of Hilary Dugan @hildug

MOREY - data through 2020

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Basin Lake Area Ratio: 9

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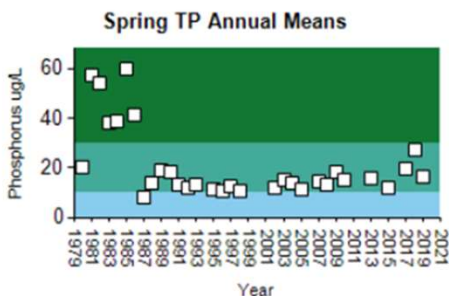
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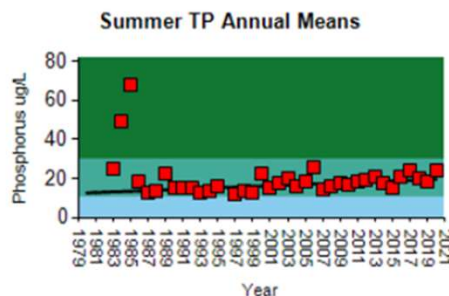
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6.4 meters

Hypereutrophic
Eutrophic
Mesotrophic
Oligotrophic

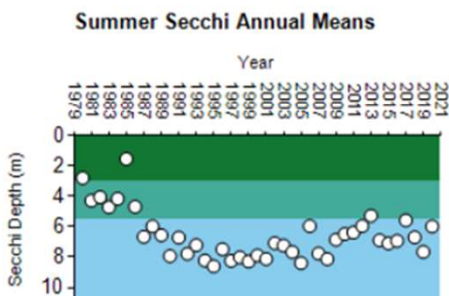
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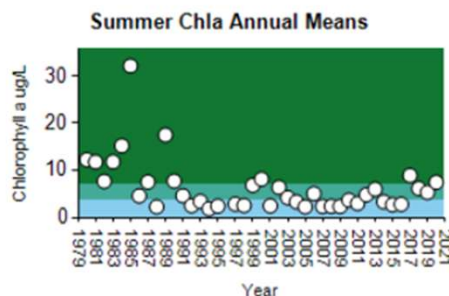
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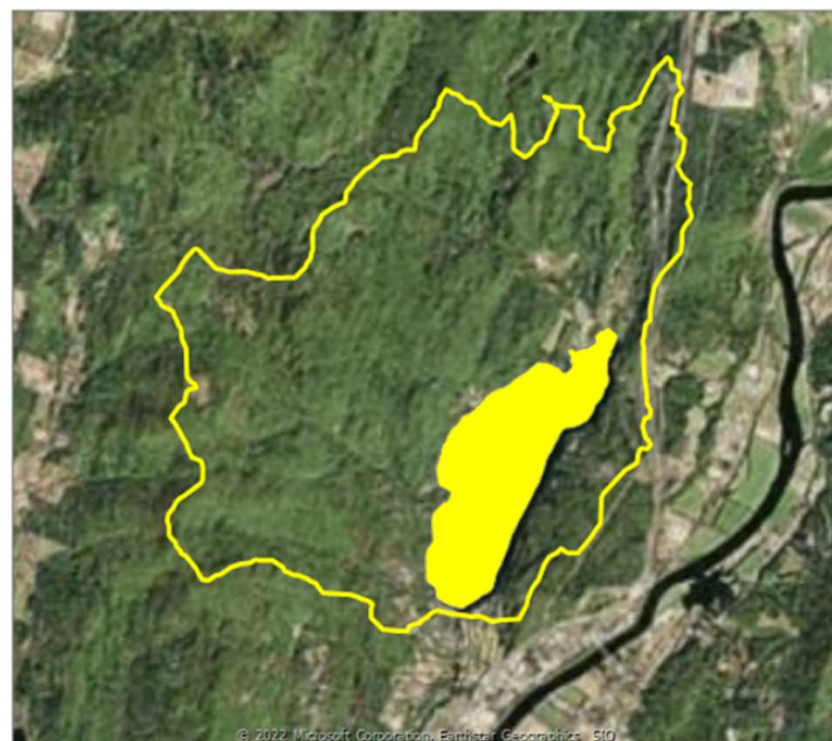
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Stresses / Impairments

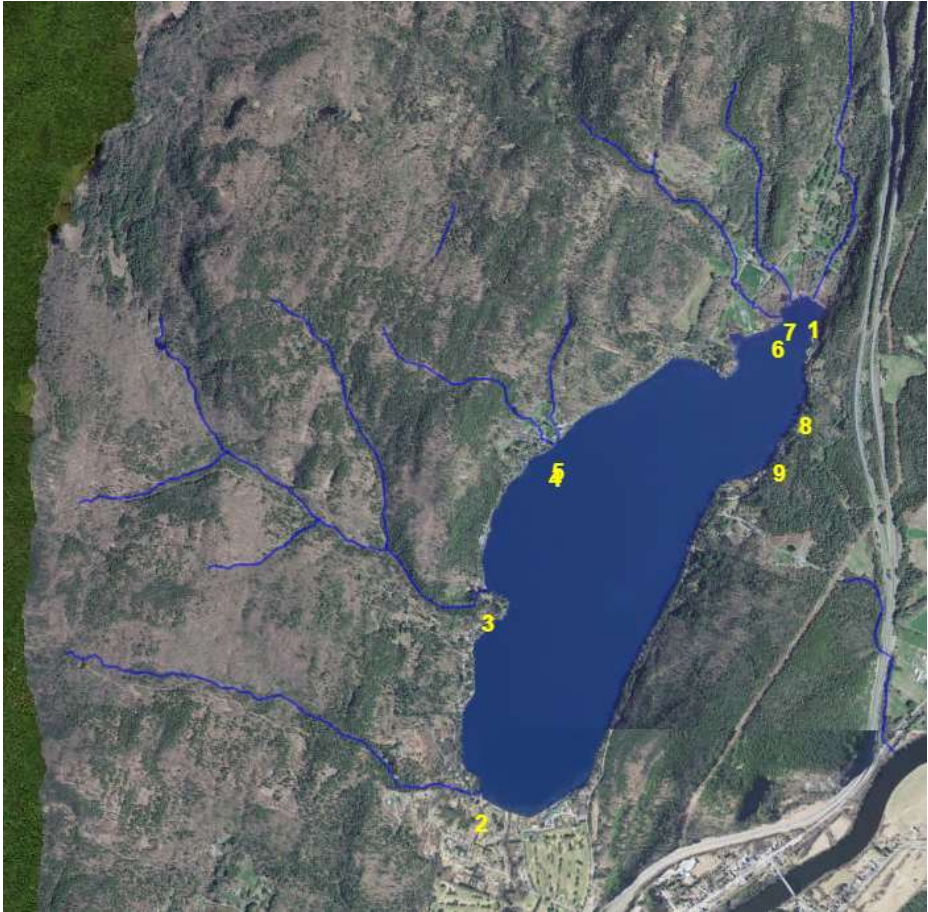
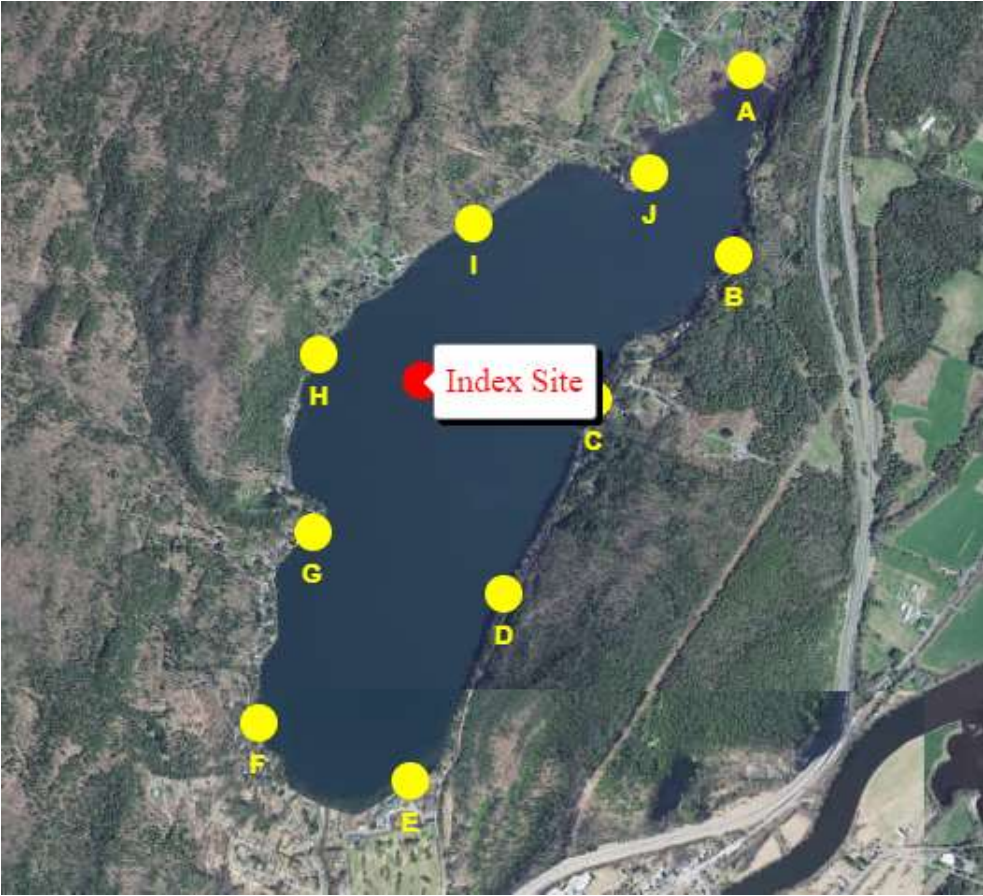
Stressed -- Phosphorus

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OPEN WATER INDEX SITE

LAKESHORE HABITAT

TRIBUTARIES



Features > Science

Scientists look to fight cyanobacteria on Lake Morey, Fairlee before it becomes a problem



Kellie Merrell, right, drops a sediment core sampler into Lake Morey in Fairlee, Vt., as her fellow Vermont Agency of Natural Resources scientist Leslie Matthews waits in the water to help her retrieve the sample on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. After separating the sample into layers, they can count the number of organisms called diatoms under a microscope to see changes over time. (Valley News - James M. Patterson) Copyright Valley News. May not be reprinted or used online without permission. Send requests to permission@vnews.com. Valley News photographs — James M. Patterson [Buy this Image](#)



Kellie Merrell, an Environmental Scientist with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, records data from a sensor dropped to the bottom of Lake Morey in Fairlee, Vt., Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021. The sensor relays data including the temperature, pH, conductivity, and the amounts of dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll-a in the water. (Valley News - James M. Patterson) Copyright Valley News. May not be reprinted or used online without permission. Send requests to permission@vnews.com. James M. Patterson [Buy this Image](#)



Environmental scientist Leslie Matthews, of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, checks the level of a sample of water from Lake Morey in Fairlee, Vt., on Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021, that will be tested for phosphorus. Matthews and other water quality monitors on the lake are researching rising levels of phosphorus in the lake. (Valley News - James M. Patterson) Copyright Valley News. May not be reprinted or used online without permission. Send requests to permission@vnews.com. [Buy this Image](#)



<https://www.vnews.com/State-scientists-concerned-about-phosphorus-levels-in-Lakes-Morey-and-Fairlee-41946616>

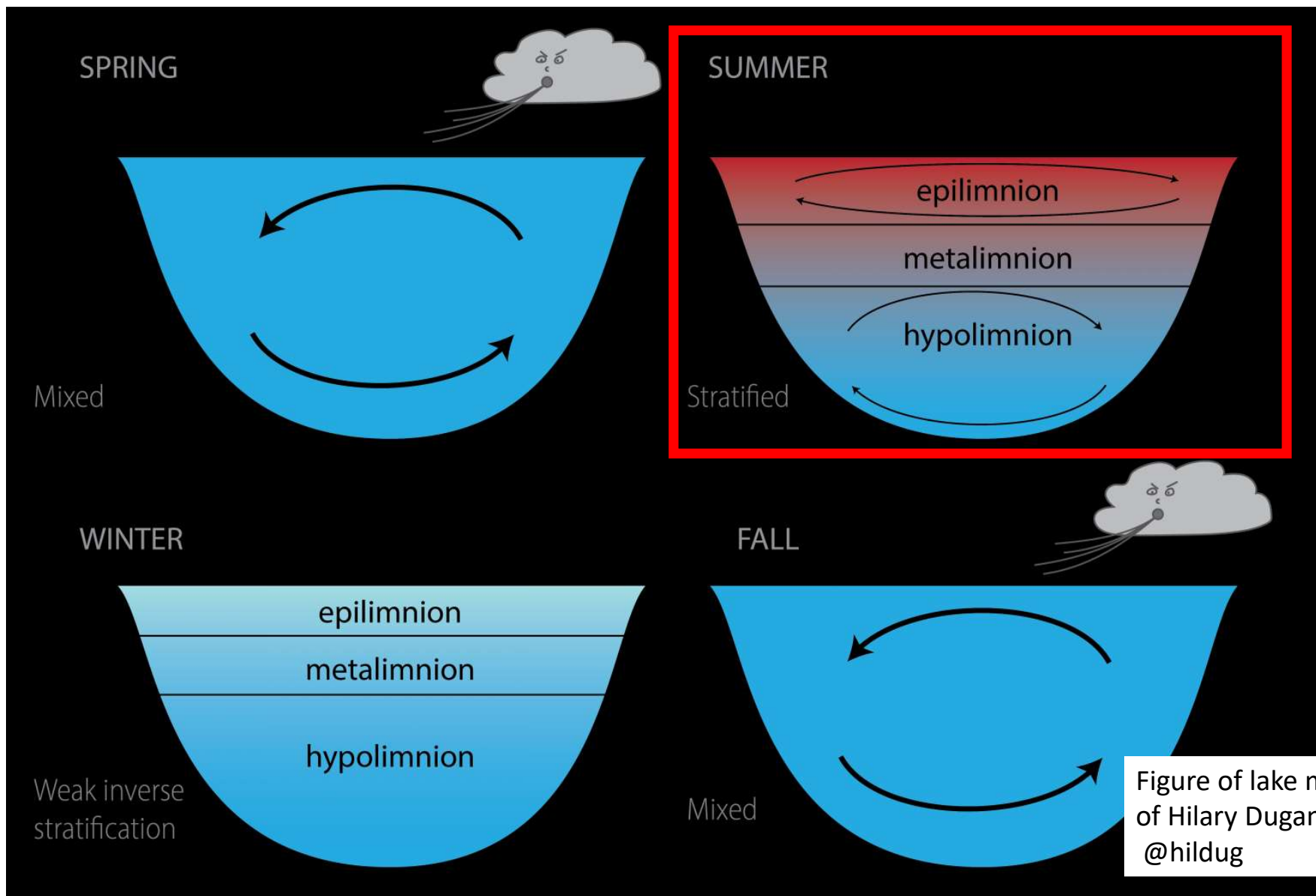
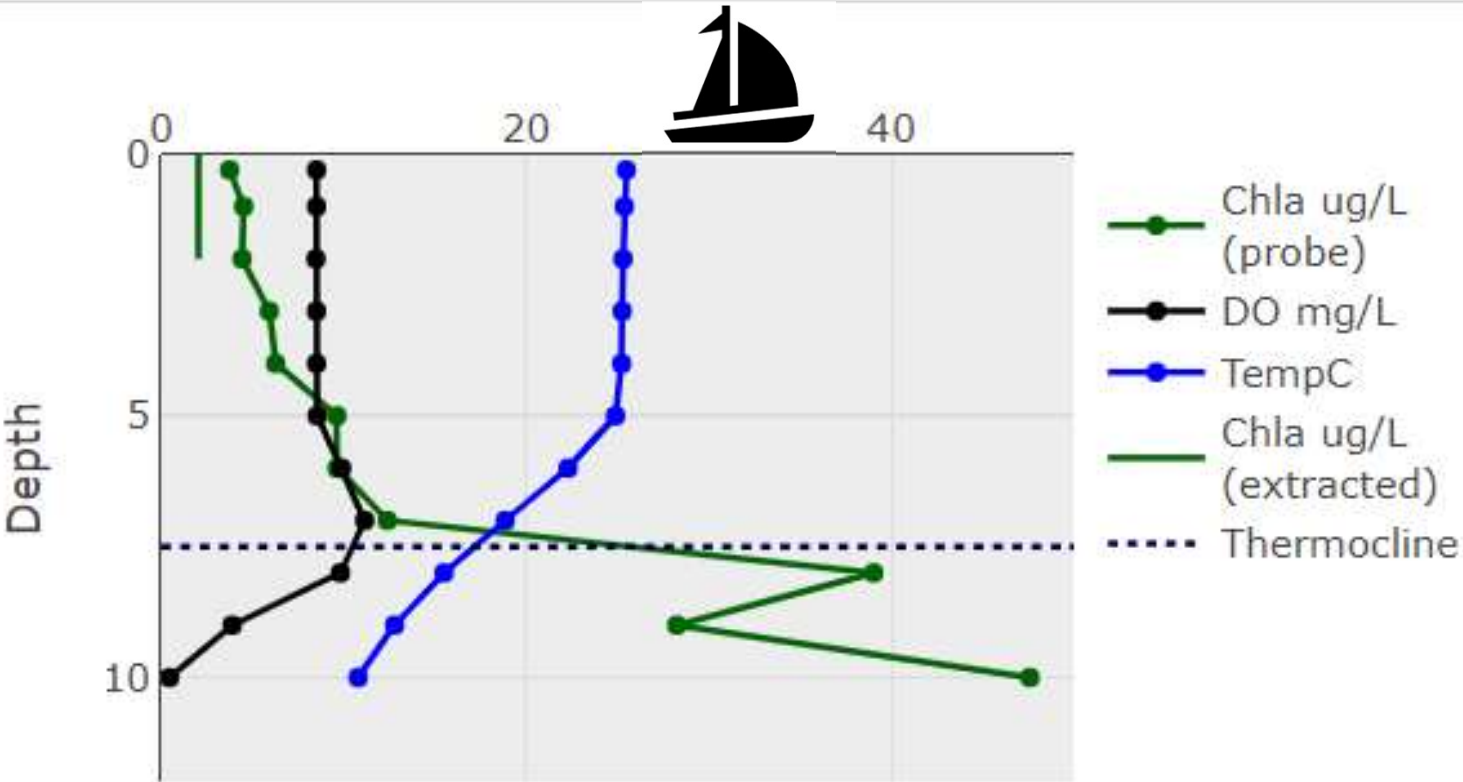
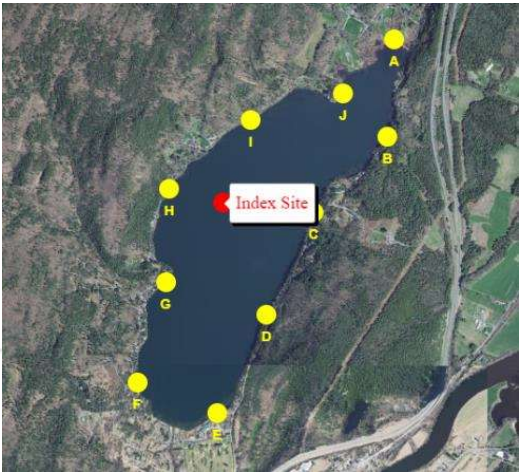
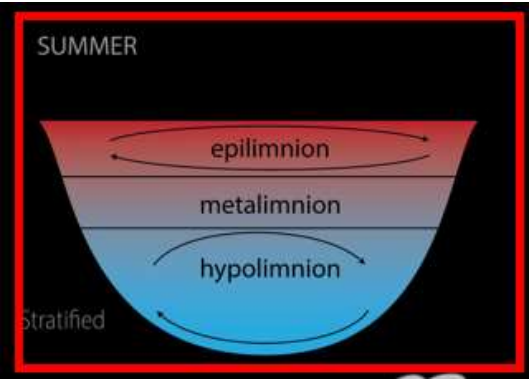


Figure of lake mixing courtesy of Hilary Dugan @hildug

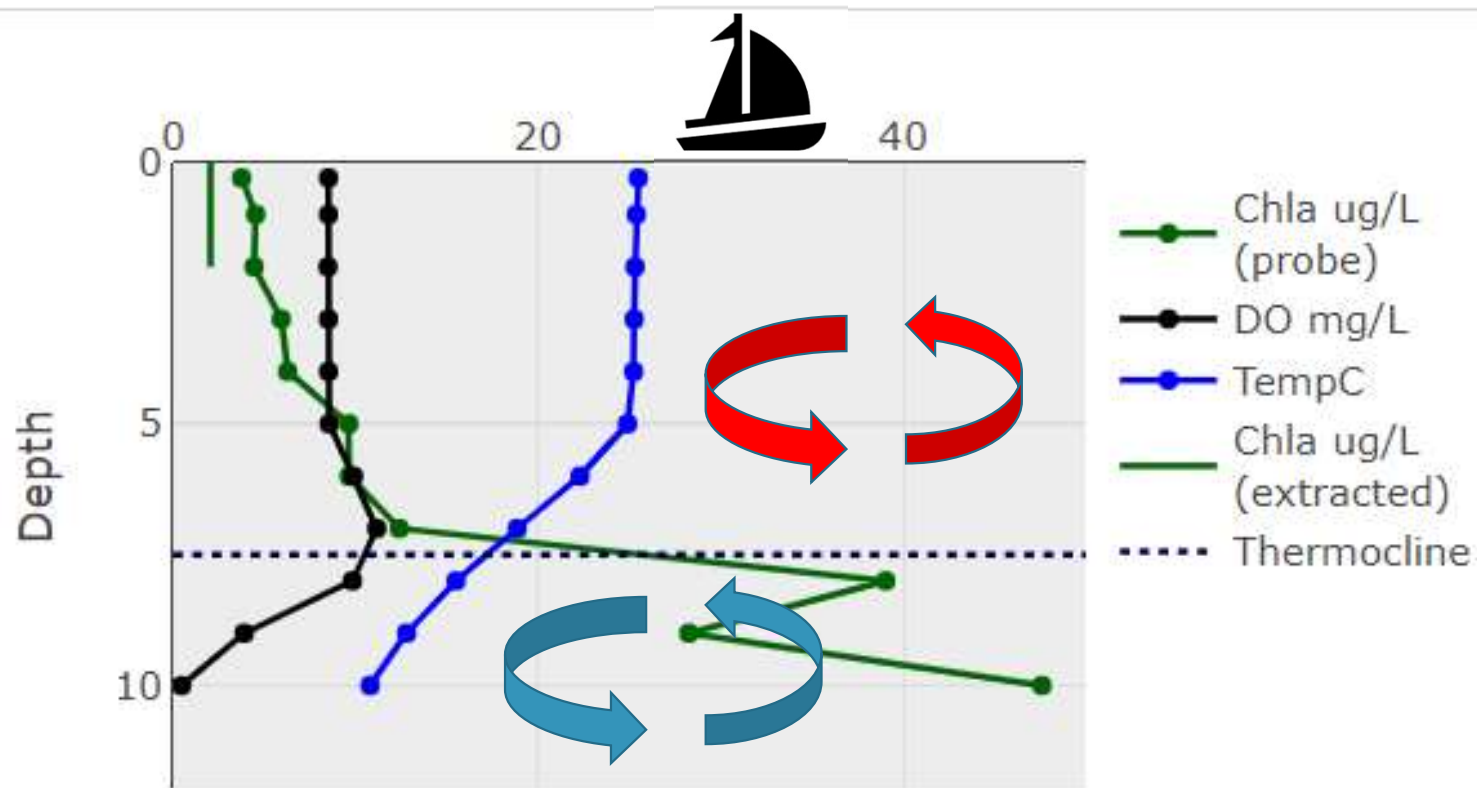
Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Chlorophyll-a



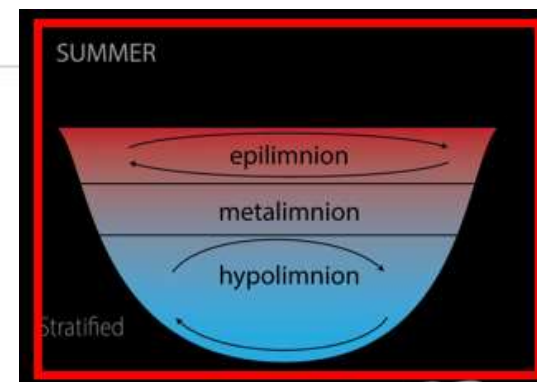
Measurements taken on 24 August 2021 at the deep hole 'Index Site'



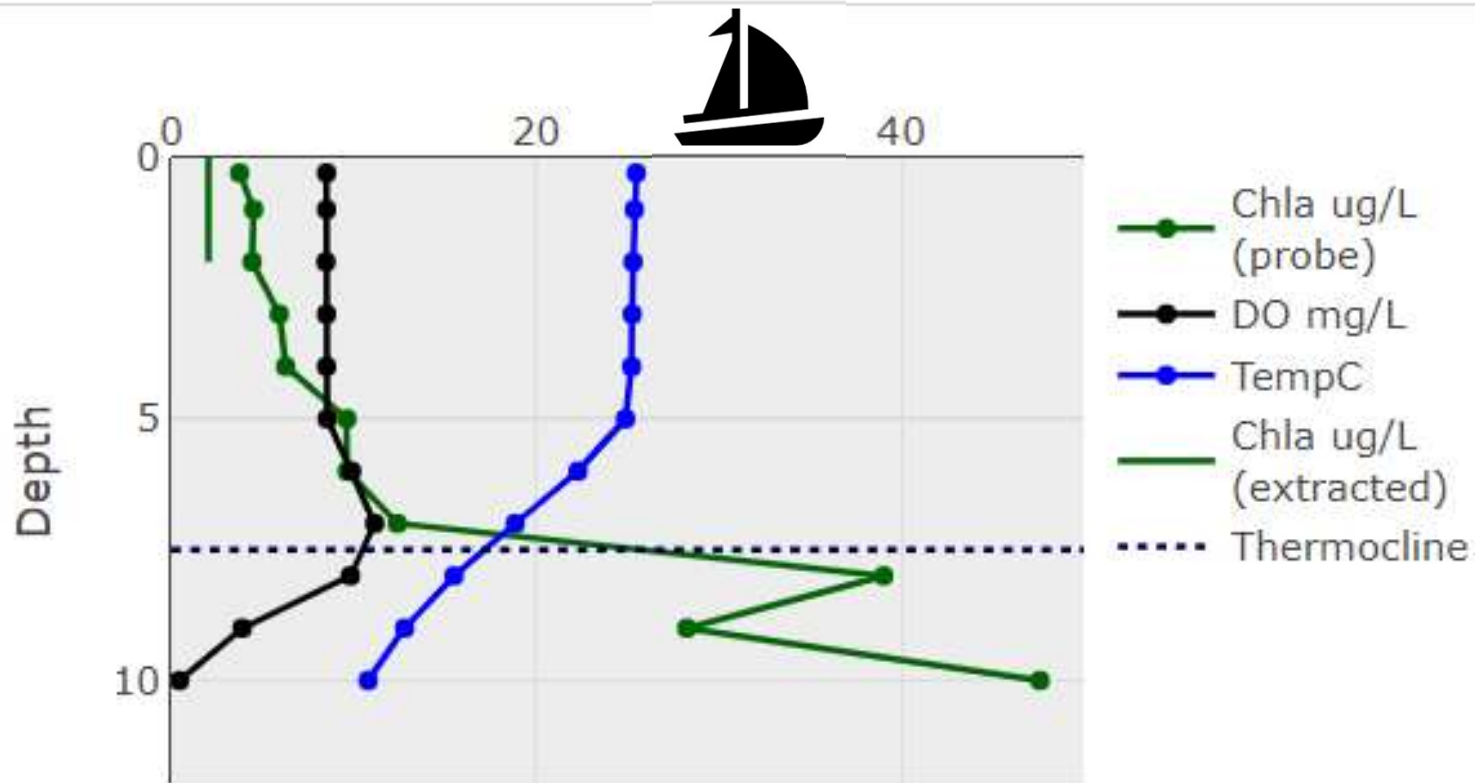
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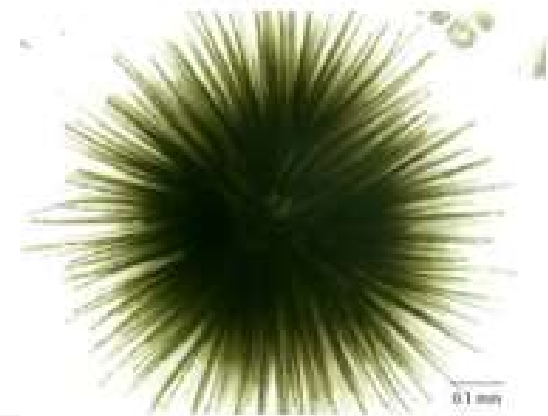
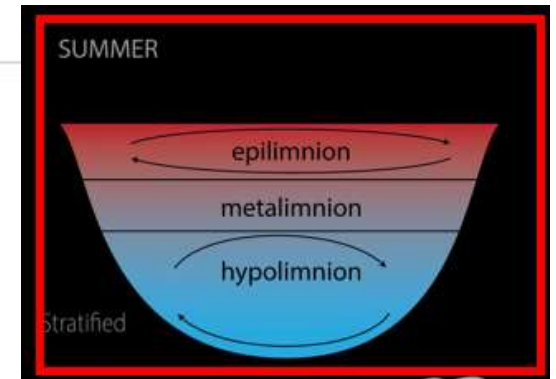
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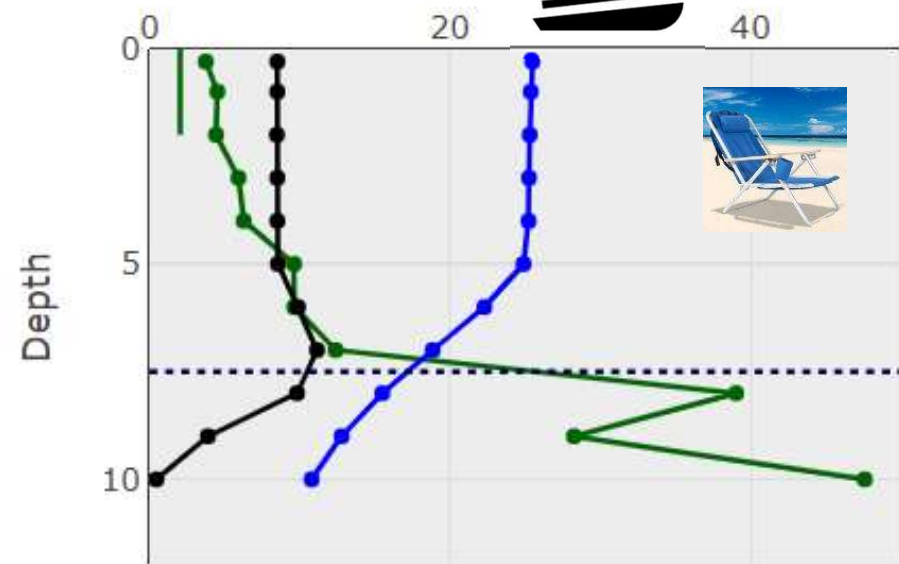


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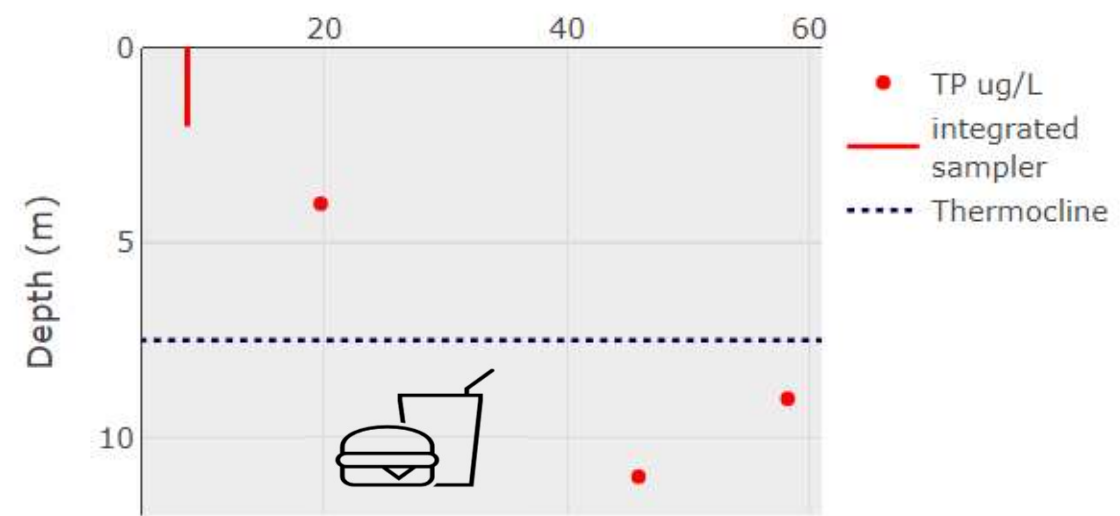


Gloeotrichia

Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Chlorophyll-a



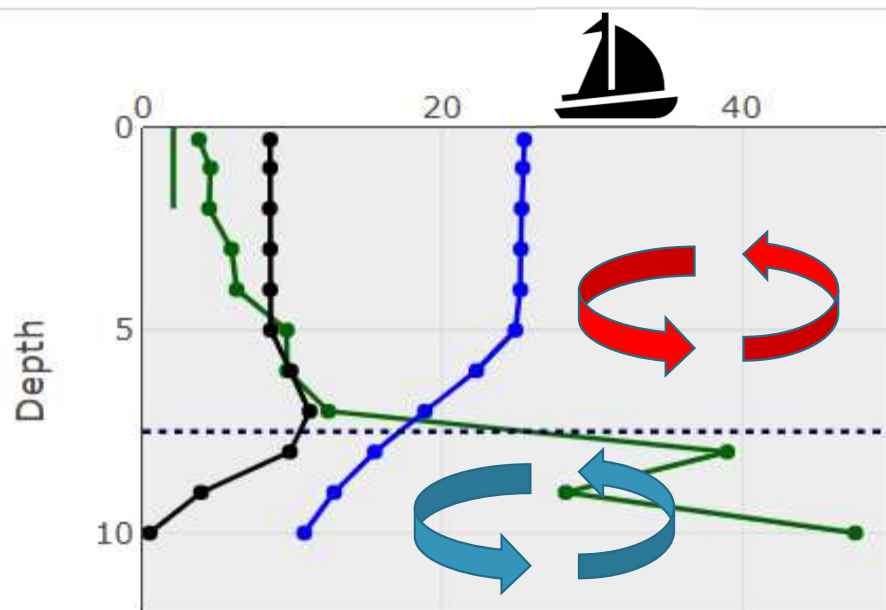
Total Phosphorus



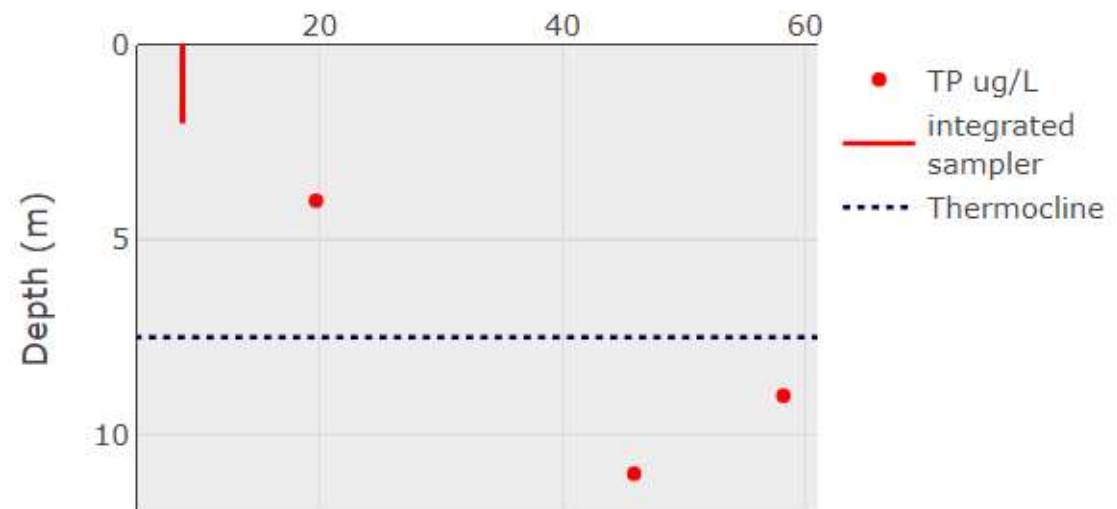
Gloeotrichia

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Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, Chlorophyll-a

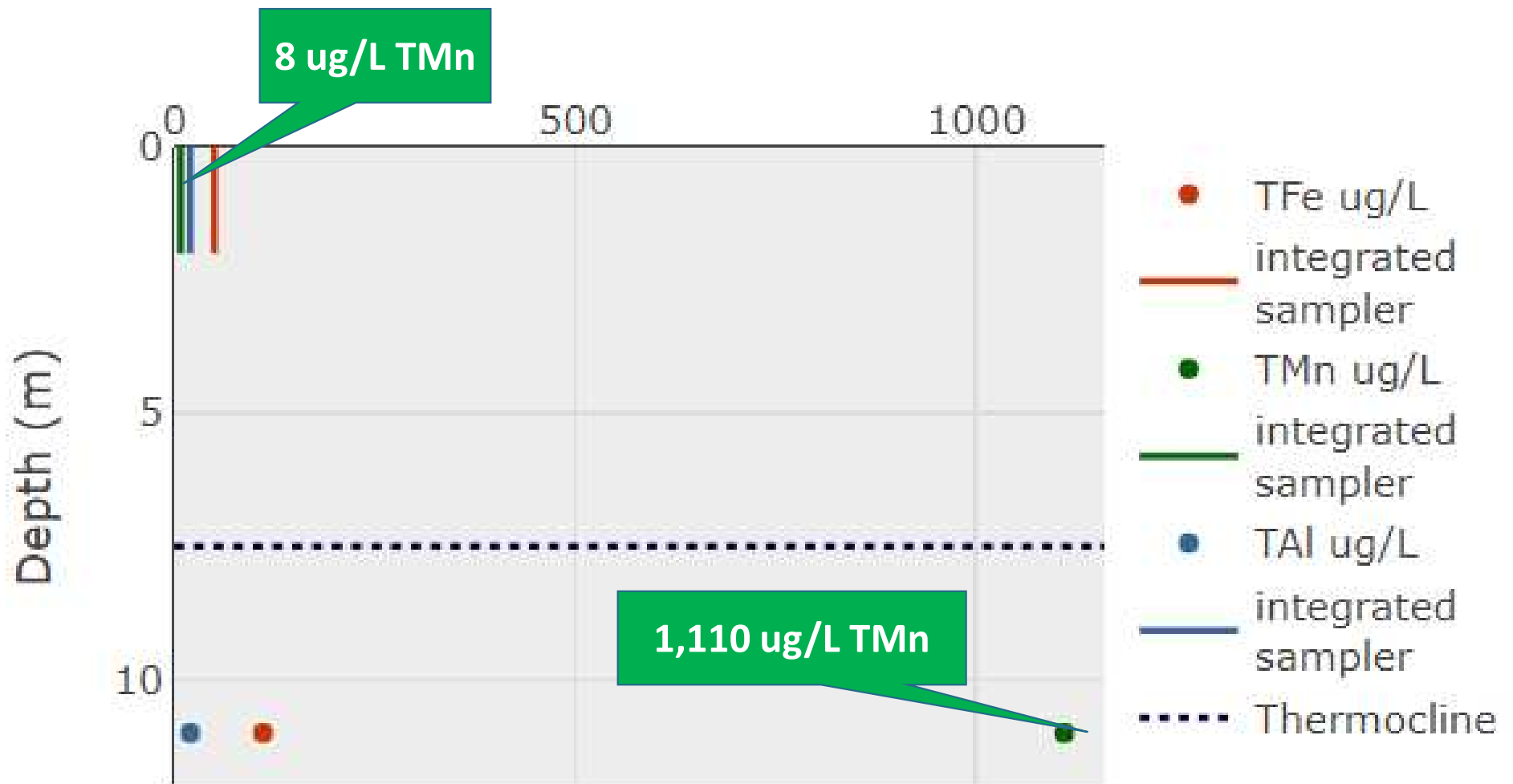


Total Phosphorus



Measurements taken on 24 August 2021 at the deep hole 'Index Site'

Iron, Manganese and Aluminum



Measurements taken on 24 August 2021 at the deep hole 'Index Site'

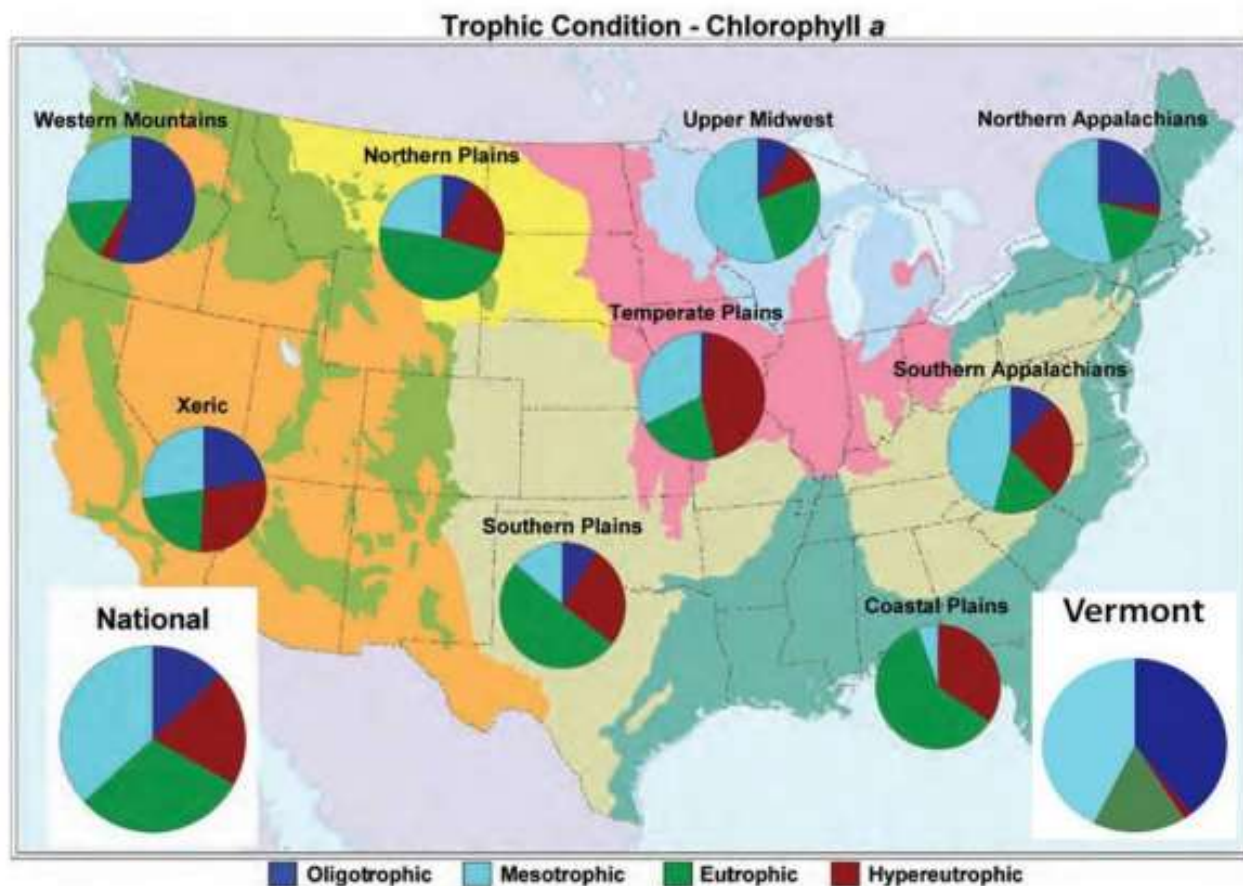
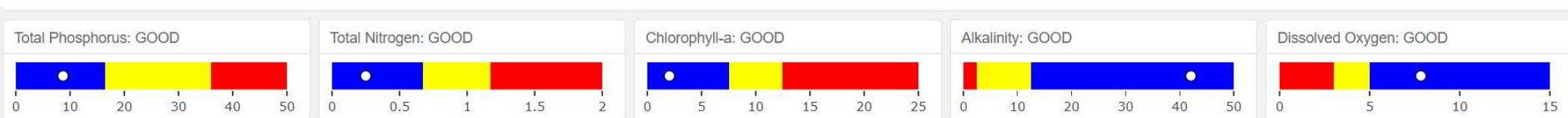
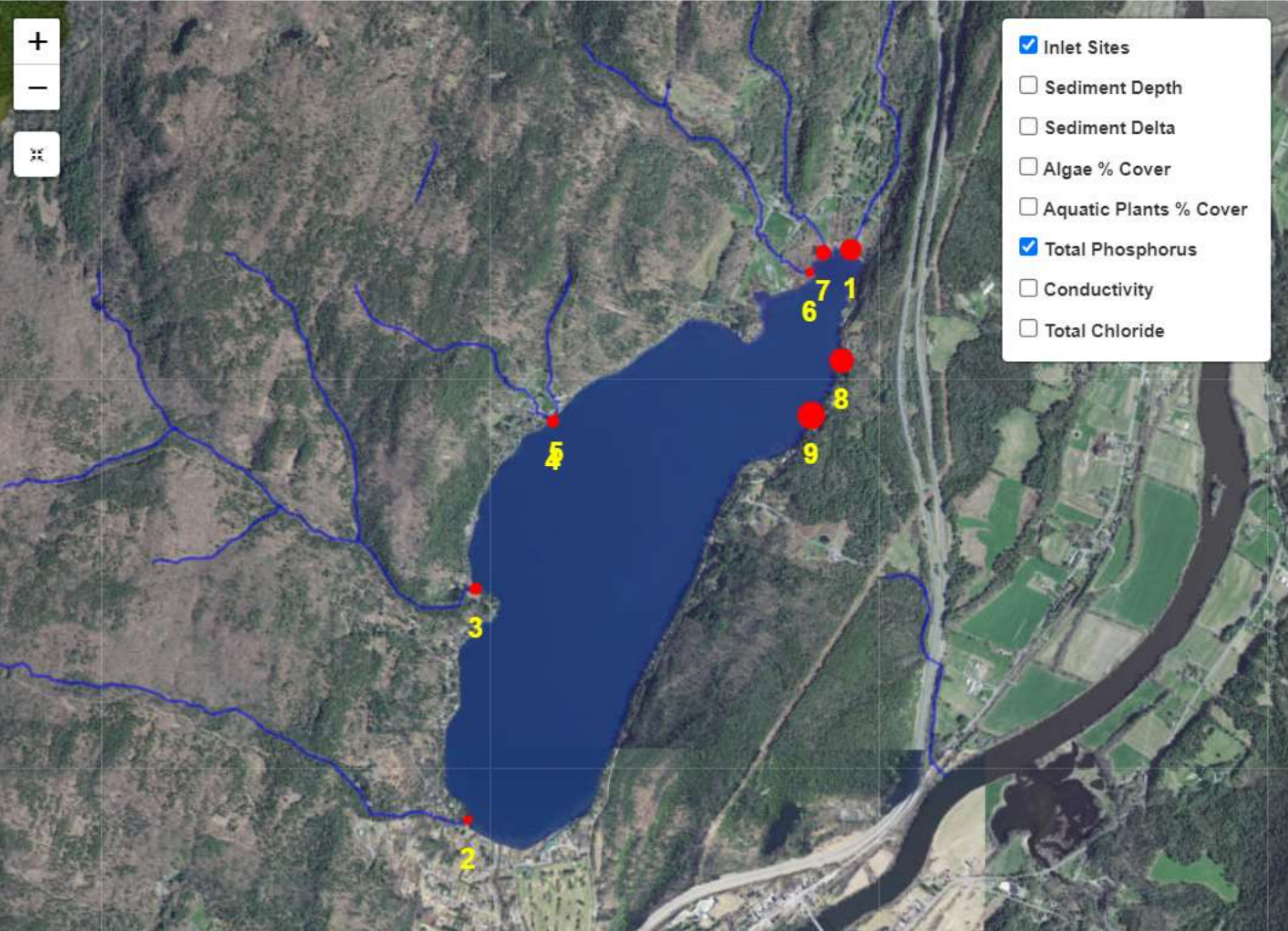


Table 2. NLA chlorophyll-a trophic state thresholds.

NLA Thresholds	Chlorophyll-a ($\mu\text{g/L}$)
Hypereutrophic	>30
Eutrophic	>7 - 30
Mesotrophic	>2 - 7
Oligotrophic	<2

Figure 11. Trophic state across 9 ecoregions, the nation and Vermont (based on NLA chlorophyll-a thresholds).

Inlets Map



Water Quality Data

Physical

Analytical Data

InletNo	TP (ug/L)	TN (mg/L)	TCI (mg/L)
1	20.2	0.18	134.0
2	10.1	0.10	2.0
3	10.5	0.12	2.0
4	12.7	0.18	2.0
6	8.2	0.11	2.0
7	14.0	0.16	2.0
8	24.8	0.50	163.0
9	27.1	0.24	3.6



Inlet 8, Bonnie Oats Brook

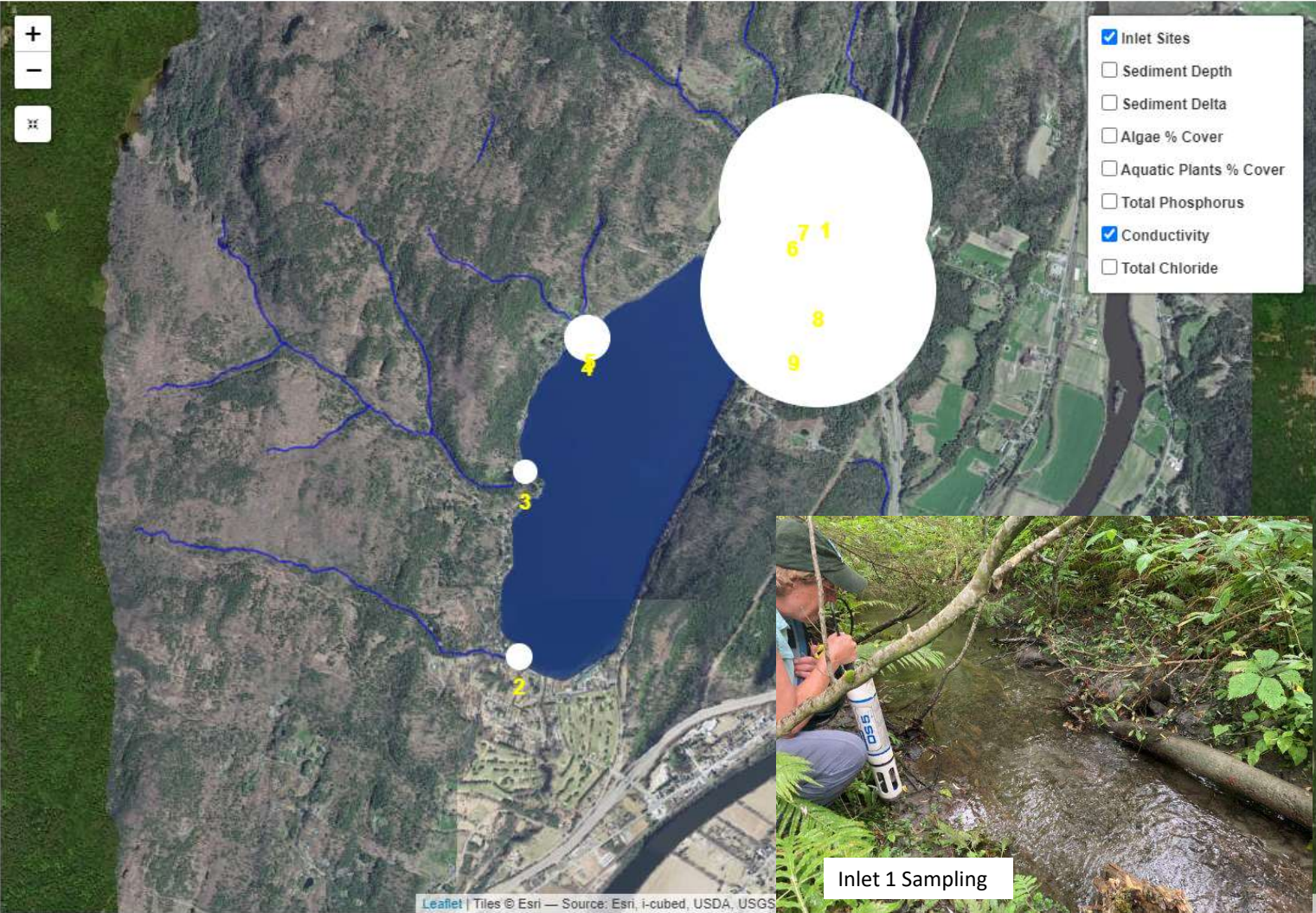


Inlet 9, Pine Brook

Hydrolab Data

InletNo	Conductivity uS/cm	Turbidity NTU	Temp C	DO mg/L	DO %	pH	Chla (ug/L)
1	877.3	NA	19.37	8.37	92.5	7.85	NA
2	113.9	NA	18.76	9.13	99.5	8.01	NA
3	101.5	NA	18.06	9.16	98.4	7.87	NA
4	194.3	NA	14.30	9.11	90.4	7.25	NA
6	109.7	NA	18.60	8.88	96.4	7.78	NA
7	92.4	NA	18.67	8.88	96.5	7.62	NA
8	969.8	NA	24.57	7.76	94.9	8.03	NA
9	138.4	NA	17.27	8.89	94.0	7.54	NA

Inlets Map



Water Quality Data

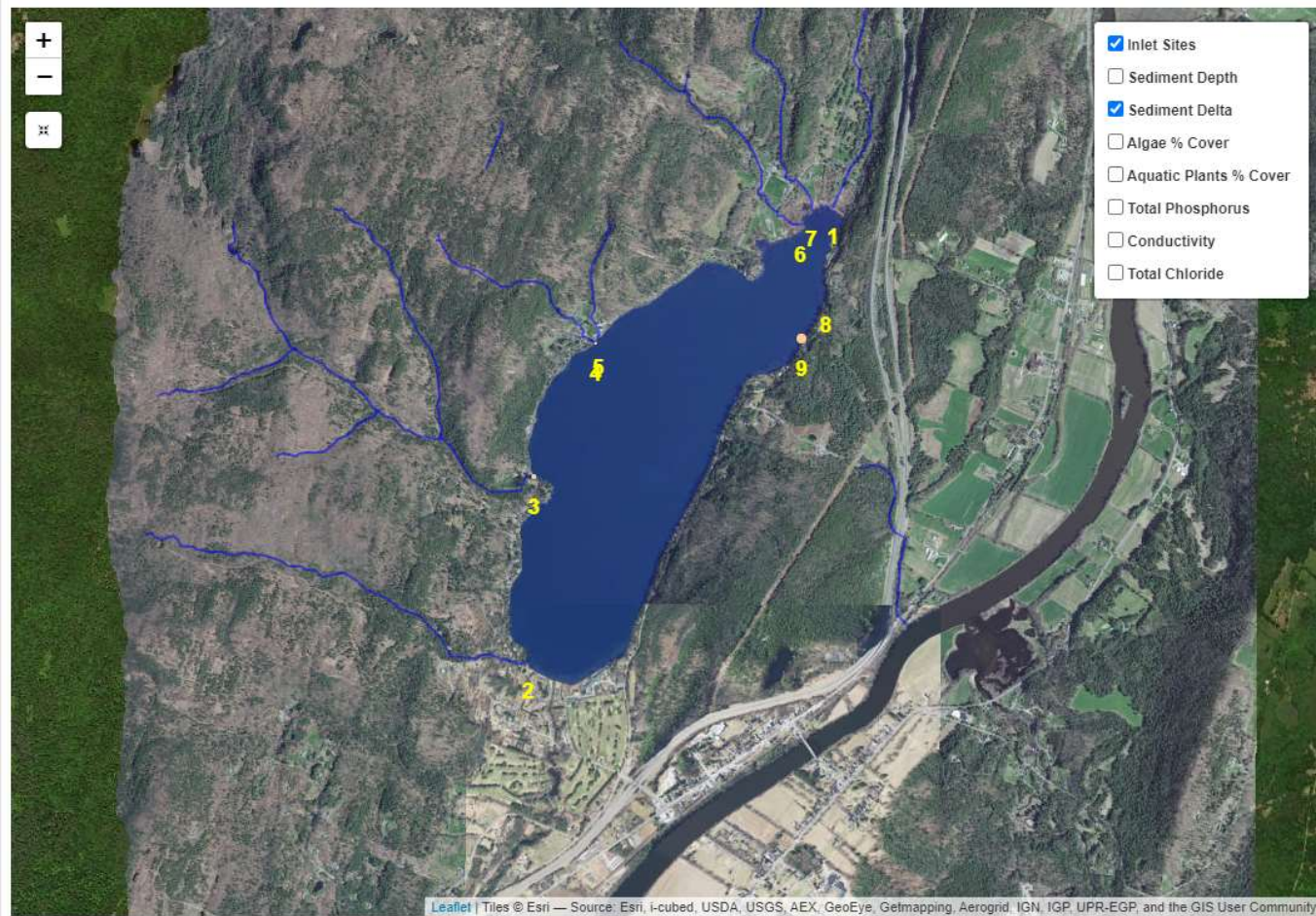
Physical Characteristics | Macrophytes

Analytical Data

InletNo	TP (ug/L)	TN (mg/L)	TCI (mg/L)
1	20.2	0.18	134.0
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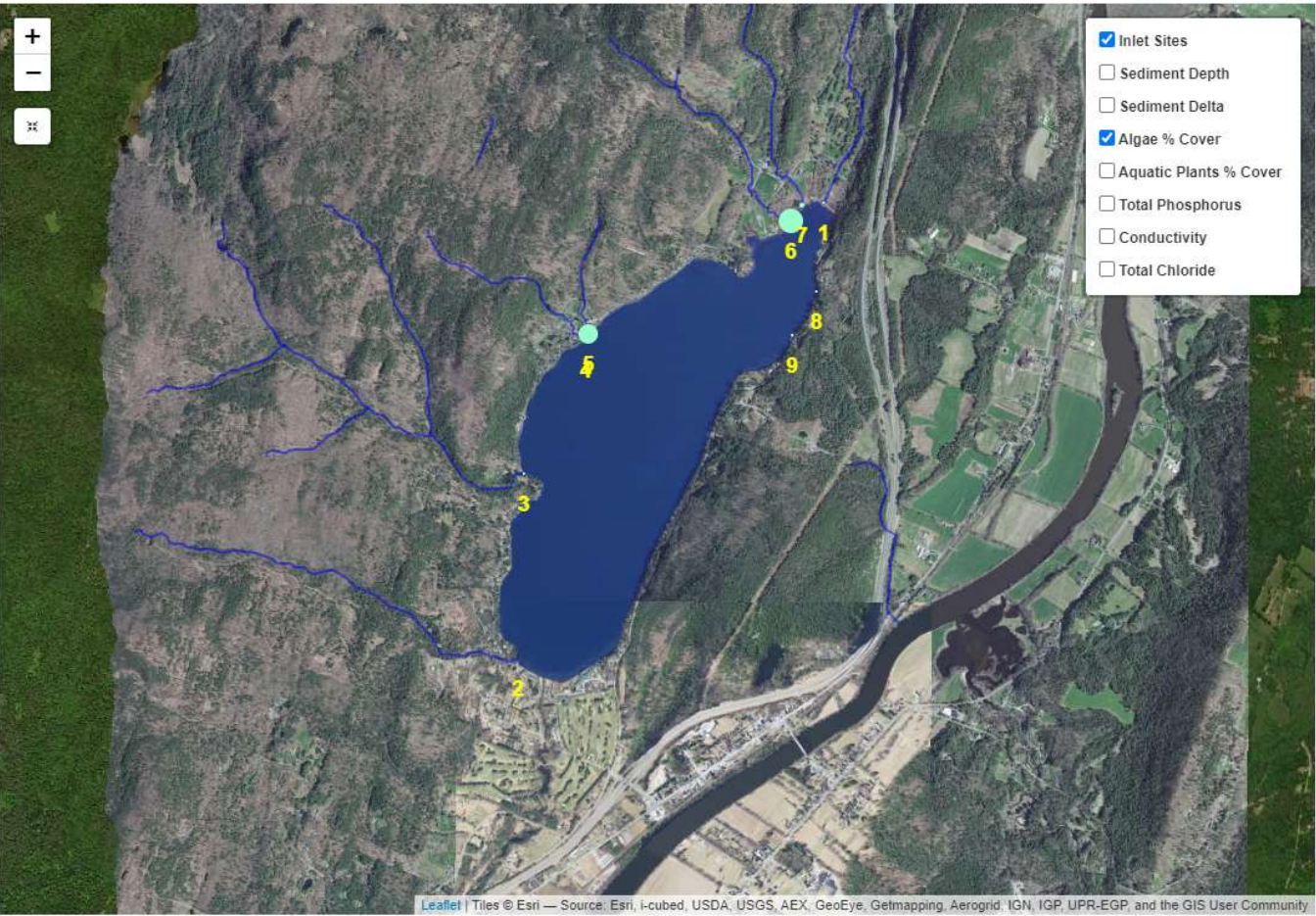


Sediment and Algae

InletNo	Sediment Depth (cm)	Sediment Delta (sq meters)	Algae %Cover
1	-1.0	0	5
2	40.0	0	0
3	0.1	3	2
4	2.0	2	2
5	-1.0	0	40
6	-1.0	0	50
7	-1.0	0	10
8	95.0	0	5
9	40.0	6	1



Inlet 9 Delta



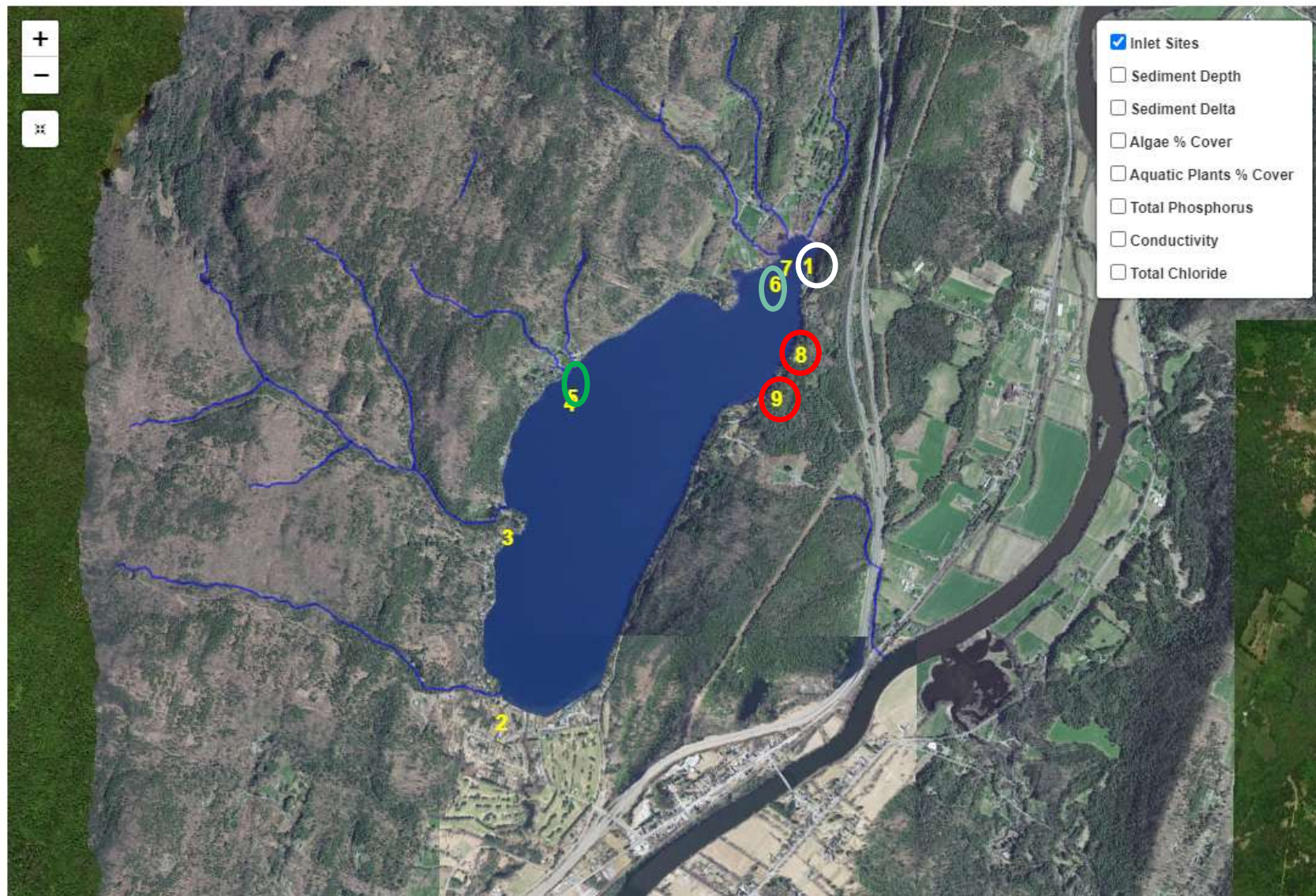
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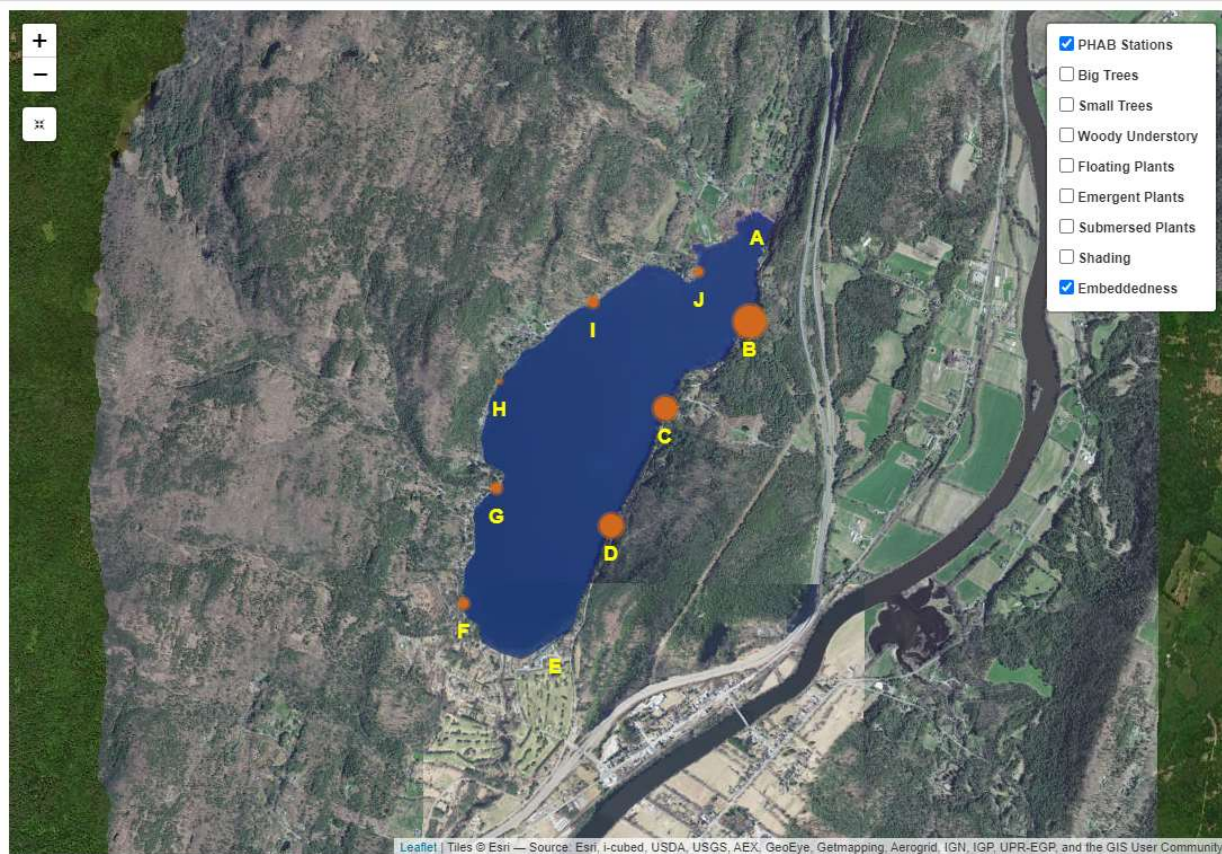
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4	2.0	2	2
5	-1.0	0	40
6	-1.0	0	50
7	-1.0	0	10
8	95.0	0	5
9	40.0	6	1

Aquatic Plants

InletNo	Plants %Cover	Dominant Plant 1	Dominant Plant 2	Dominant Plant 3
1	100	Nymphoides cordata	Typha latifolia	Potamogeton robbinsii
2	0	NA	NA	NA
3	0	NA	NA	NA
4	0	NA	NA	NA
5	75	Potamogeton amplifolius	Potamogeton illinoensis	Zosterella dubia
6	60	Nymphaea odorata ssp. Odorata	Pontederia cordata	Typha latifolia
7	100	Potamogeton robbinsii	Nuphar variegata	Typha latifolia
8	2	Nymphaea odorata ssp. Odorata	Elodea canadensis	Vallisneria americana
9	2	Vallisneria americana	NA	NA

Inlets Map





Assessments based on habitat indexes developed by EPA's National Lake Assessment program.

Lakeshore Disturbance: FAIR



Lakeshore Habitat: FAIR

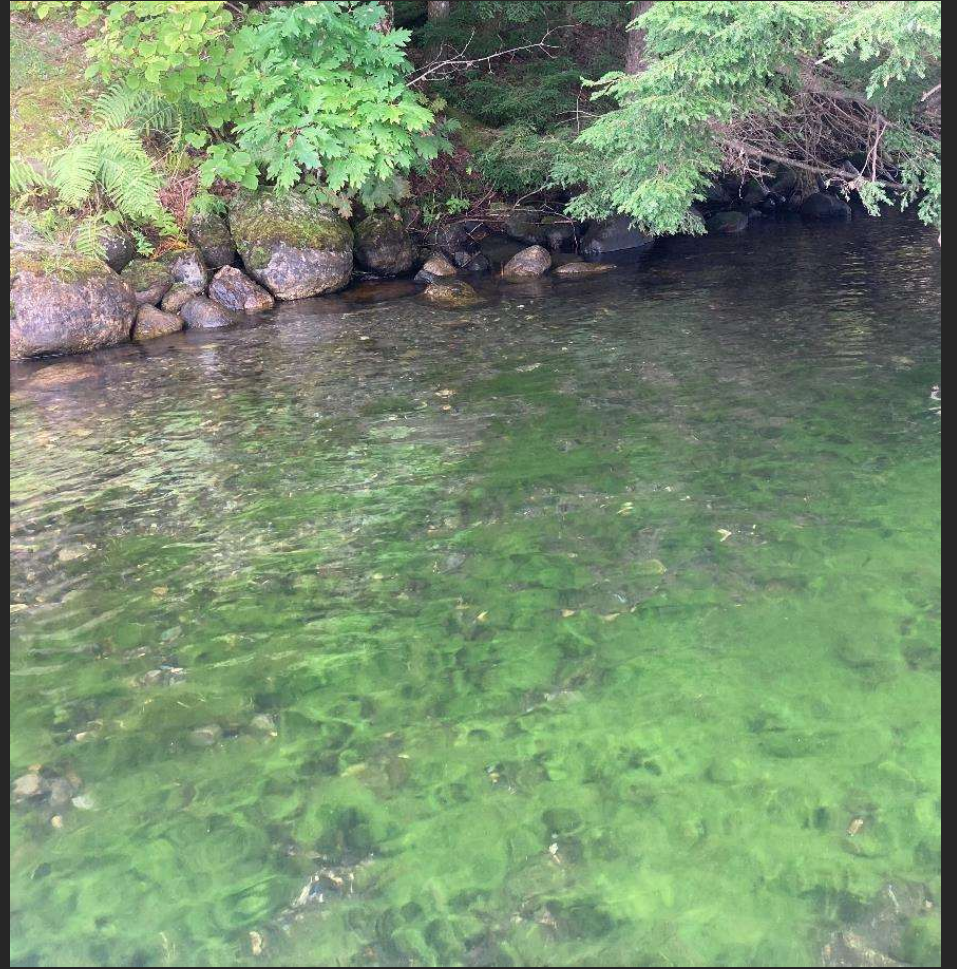


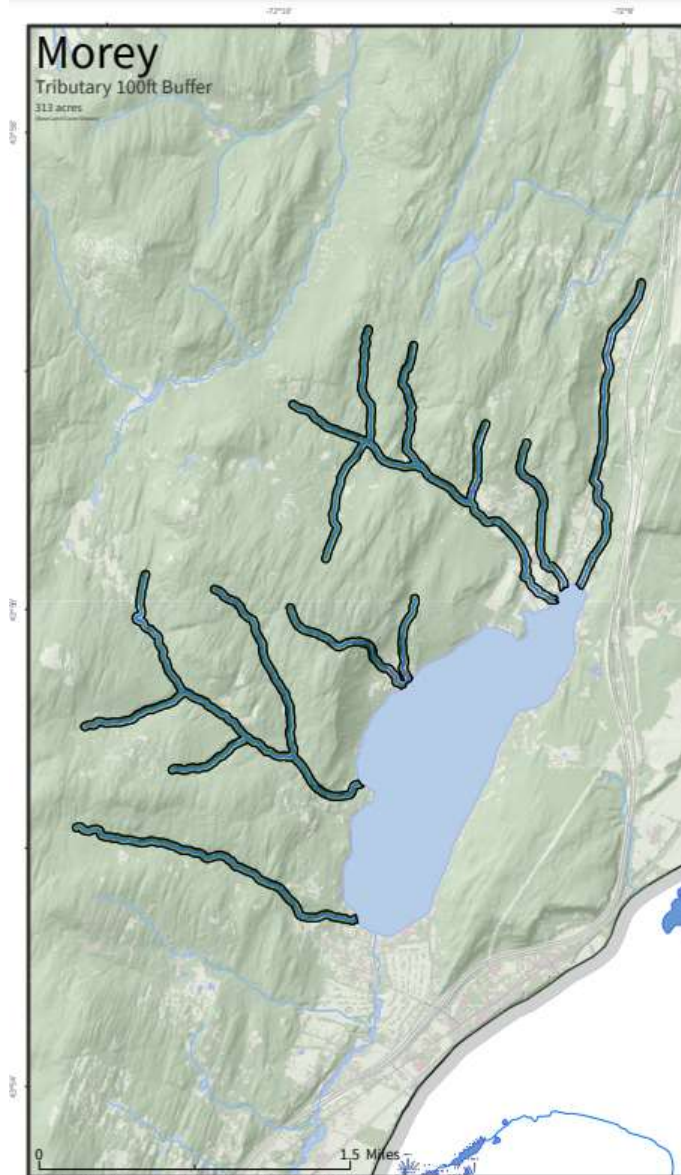
Shallow Water Habitat: POOR



Physical Complexity of Habitat: POOR

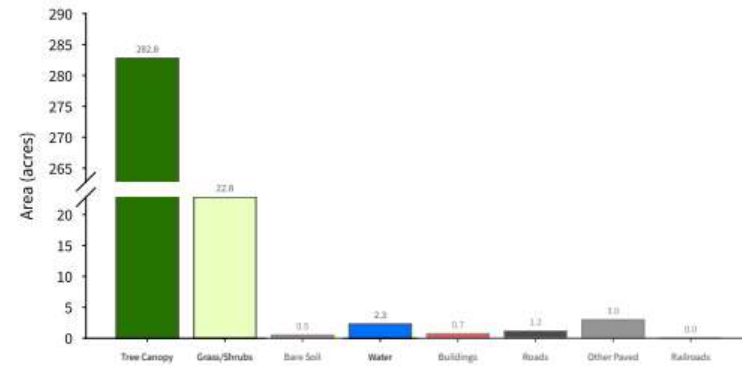






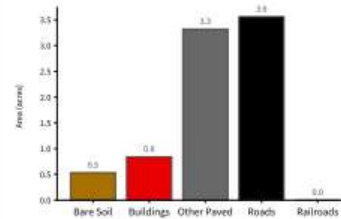
High-Resolution Land Cover Summary

Base Land Cover (Top-Down*)

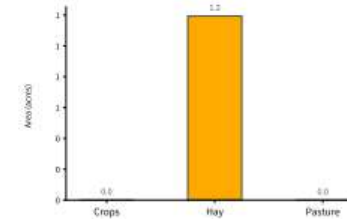


Supplemental Land Cover

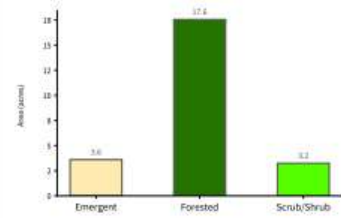
Impervious Surfaces (8.26 acres - 2.6 % of total)



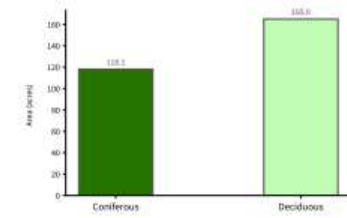
Agriculture (1.19 acres - 0.4 % of total)



Wetlands (24.4 acres - 7.8 % of total)



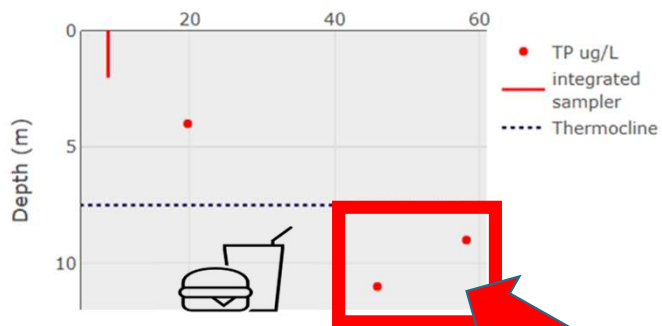
Tree Canopy (283.08 acres - 90.4 % of total)



*Top-Down: Traditional land cover mapping approach. Bottom-Up: Vegetation mapped within specified land cover class.

Total Phosphorus

OPEN WATER INDEX SITE



Habitat Inlets Protection Classification Data

MOREY Report Card

Total Phosphorus **GOOD**

Total Nitrogen **GOOD**

Chlorophyll-a **GOOD**

Alkalinity **GOOD**

Dissolved Oxygen **GOOD**

Lakeshore Disturbance **FAIR**

Lakeshore Habitat **FAIR**

Shallow Water Habitat **POOR**

Physical Complexity of Habitat **POOR**

For more information about how lakes are scored, visit [Gauging the health of Vermont Lakes: Results](#)

LAKESHORE DEVELOPMENT

TRIBUTARIES

Index Site

WCAX 3

Weather COVID-19 Coverage 3 News Now Who's Hiring Livestream

5 Weather Alerts In Effect

Dartmouth study finds road salt is threatening lakes in our region



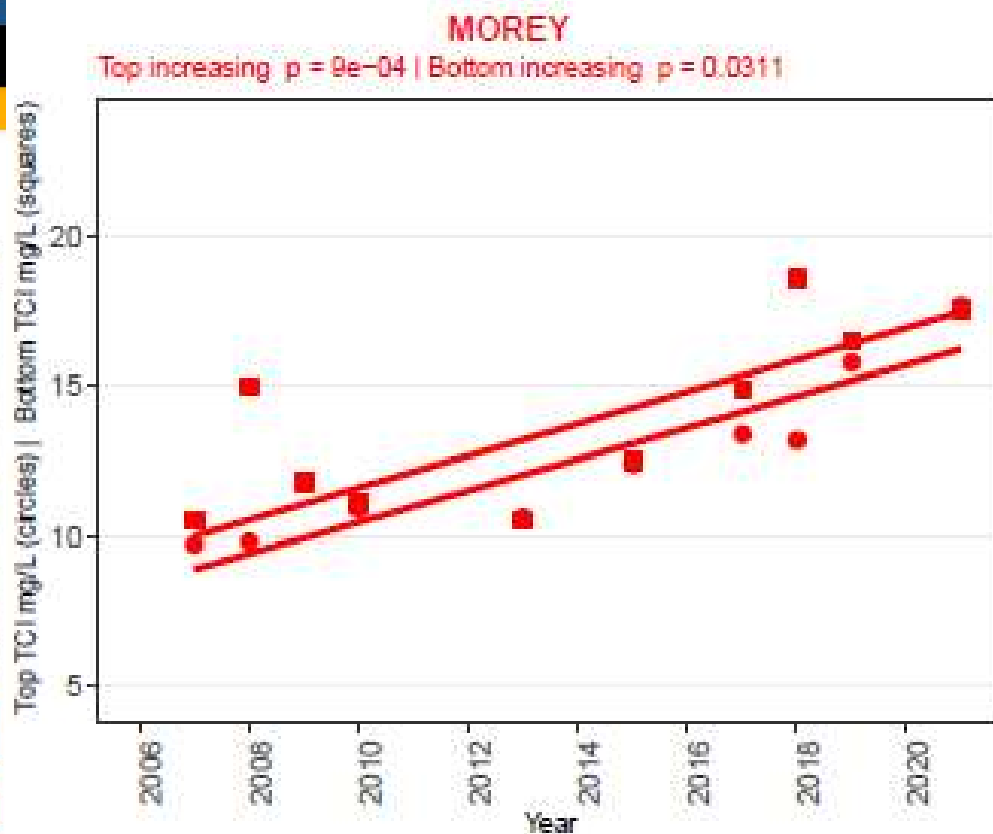
THE EFFECTS OF ROAD SALT?

21°
4:06

xfinity STOCKS **NASDAQ** 13,289.46 ▲ 251.97

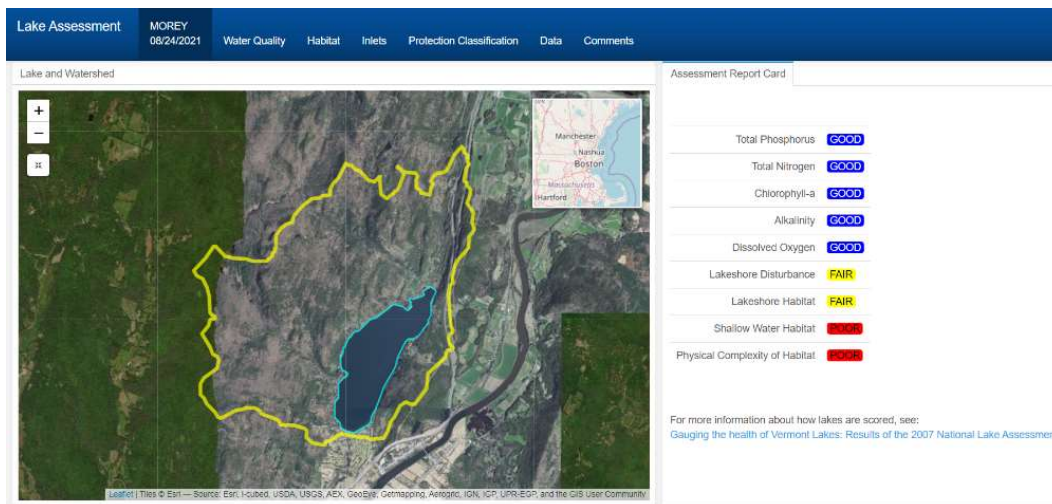
ADDISON; BENNINGTON; CALEDONIA | WINTER STORM WARNING

By [Elissa Borden](#)
Published: Feb. 24, 2022 at 5:36 PM EST | Updated: Feb. 24, 2022 at 7:51 PM EST



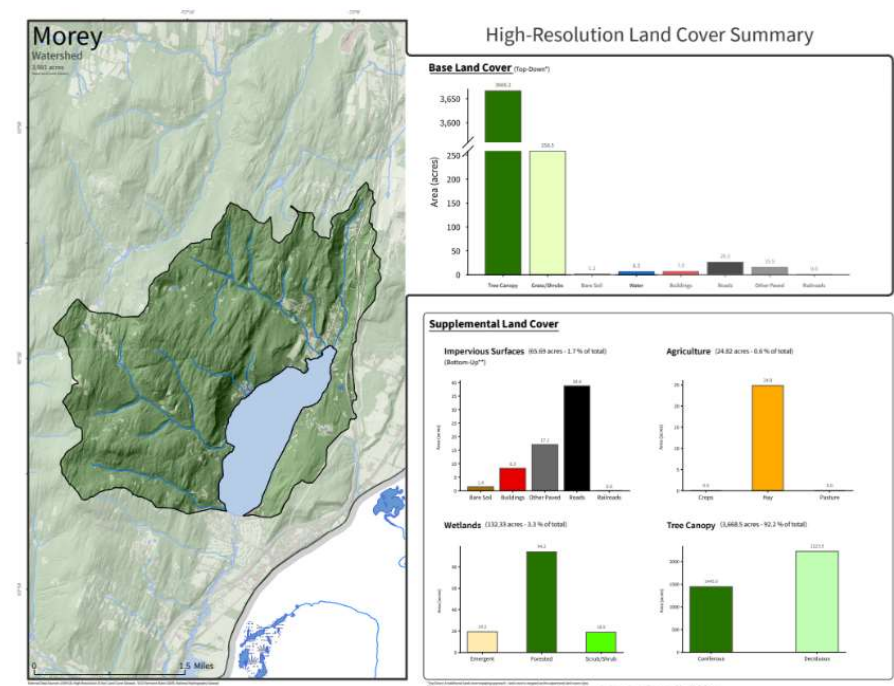
Interactive Next Generation Lake Assessment Report from August 2021

VTDEC visit, contact Kellie



High Resolution Land Cover Map

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/data-maps/land-cover-maps>



Kellie.Merrell@Vermont.Gov

Cyanobacteria and Lake Morey

Peter Isles, Ph.D.

Aquatic Ecologist

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Lakes & Ponds Program

Peter.isles@vermont.gov

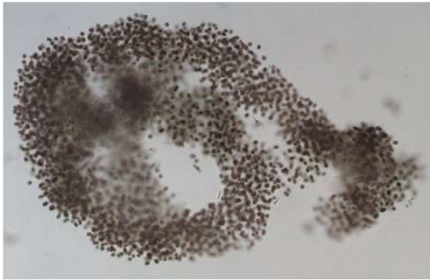


What are cyanobacteria?

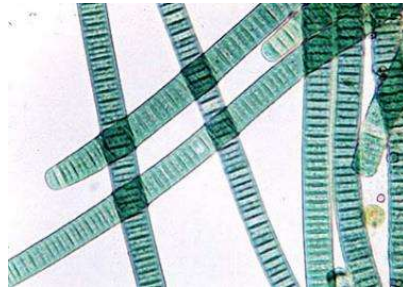
- Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are unicellular, sometimes colonial bacteria capable of photosynthesis
- Cyanobacteria have been around for billions of years
- Cyanobacteria live in almost every environment on earth
- Cyanobacteria are a natural and important part of most ecosystems
- But with too much phosphorus and nitrogen, runaway growth can lead to blooms (which are sometimes toxic)



What problematic cyanobacteria are in Vermont?



Microcystis



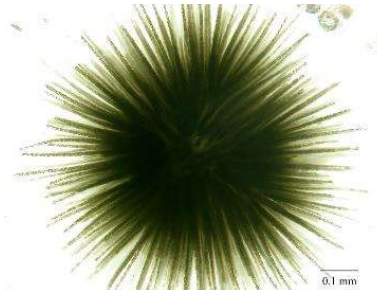
Oscillatoria/Planktothrix



Dolichospermum



Aphanizomenon



Gloeotrichia

Common features: Form large colonies, most regulate buoyancy, sometimes produce toxins

How do we recognize and monitor blooms in Vermont?



<https://www.healthvermont.gov/tracking/cyanobacteria-tracker>



How do we recognize and monitor blooms in Vermont?



<https://www.healthvermont.gov/tracking/cyanobacteria-tracker>



How do we recognize and monitor blooms in Vermont?

Pollen



Green algae



NOT blooms!

Cottonwood and algae



Duckweed



Duckweed

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/tracking/cyanobacteria-tracker>

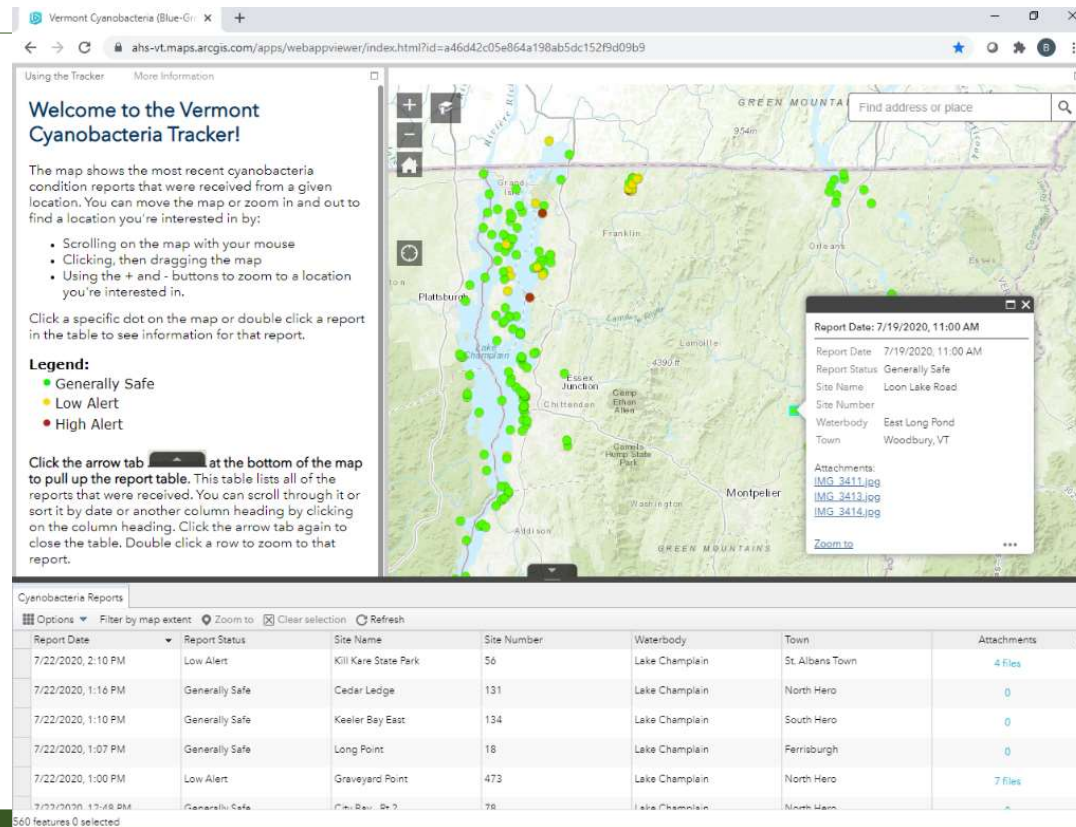
How do we recognize and monitor blooms in Vermont?



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How do we monitor blooms in Vermont?



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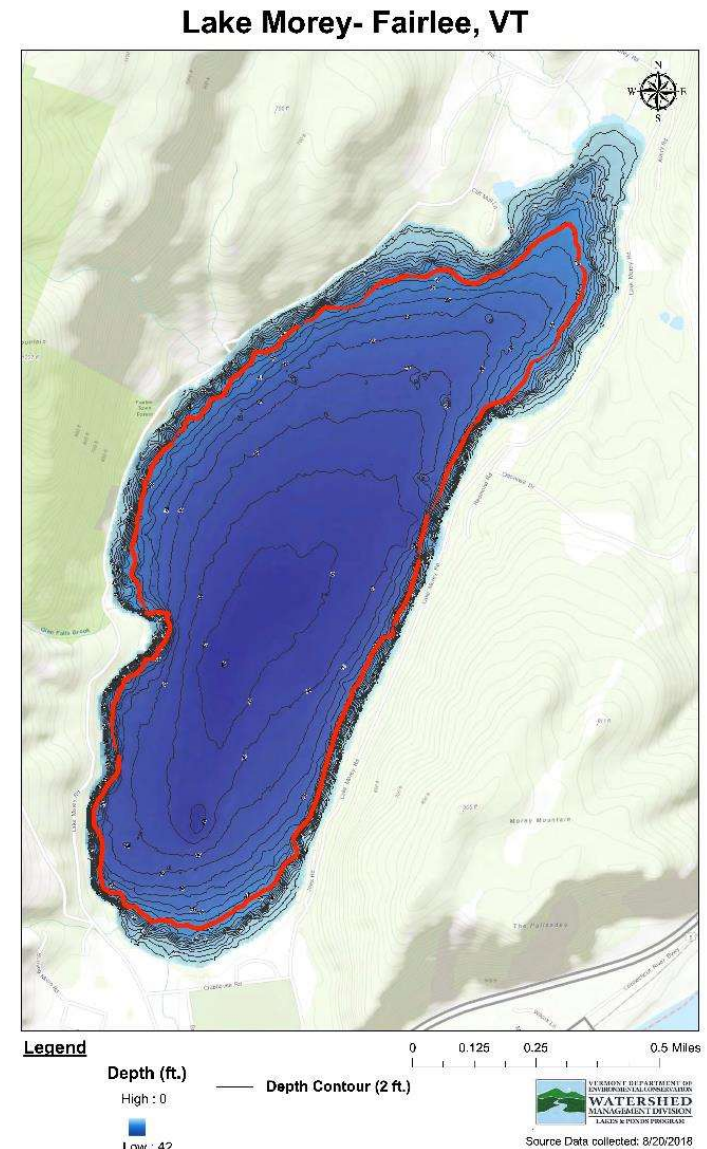
What is the history of blooms in Lake Morey?

- In the 1970's and early 1980's there was public concern about regular cyanobacteria blooms in the lake, with a major fish kill event in 1985 (Smeltzer 1990)
- A study was done which identified internal loading as the major immediate source of P in the lake
- This sediment P was assumed to be delivered to the lake decades earlier as a result of poor wastewater management
- Because of this, Lake Morey was a good candidate for alum treatment, which was quite effective, and the blooms stopped

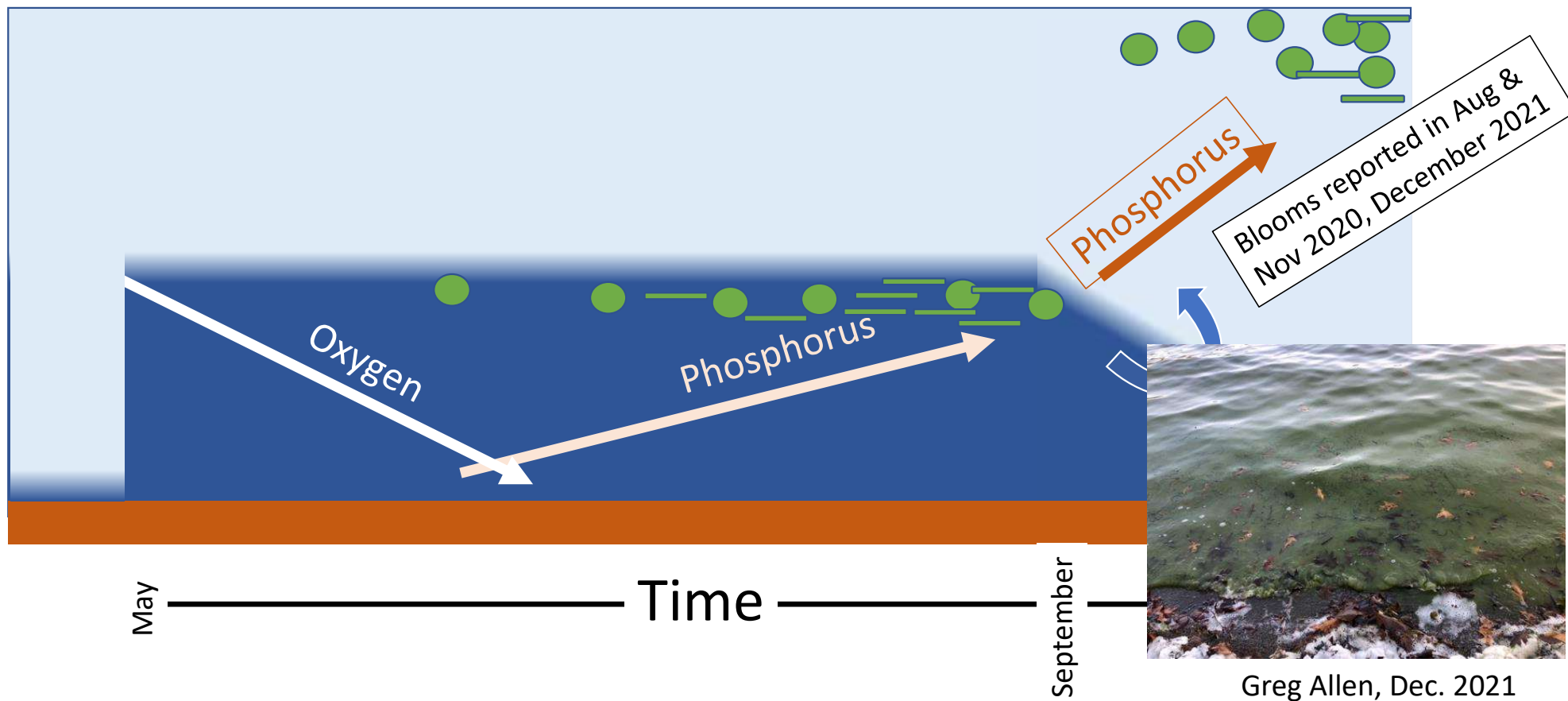


Lake Morey and internal P loading

- If internal loading is increasing again, it would be good to know why
- Lake Morey is particularly vulnerable to internal loading because of its depth profile
 - It is relatively shallow but almost all of the lake bottom is below the thermocline
 - This means that it is easy to deplete hypolimnion oxygen, and that P released from sediments has a large impact on water concentrations



Likely mechanisms in Lake Morey



What is going on with cyanobacteria now?

- We don't really know
- There are several recent bloom reports, but monitoring has not been consistent over time
- We could use microscopy samples to better understand the species composition throughout the year (especially deep chlorophyll layer)
- **If** P continues to increase, blooms are likely to increase as well

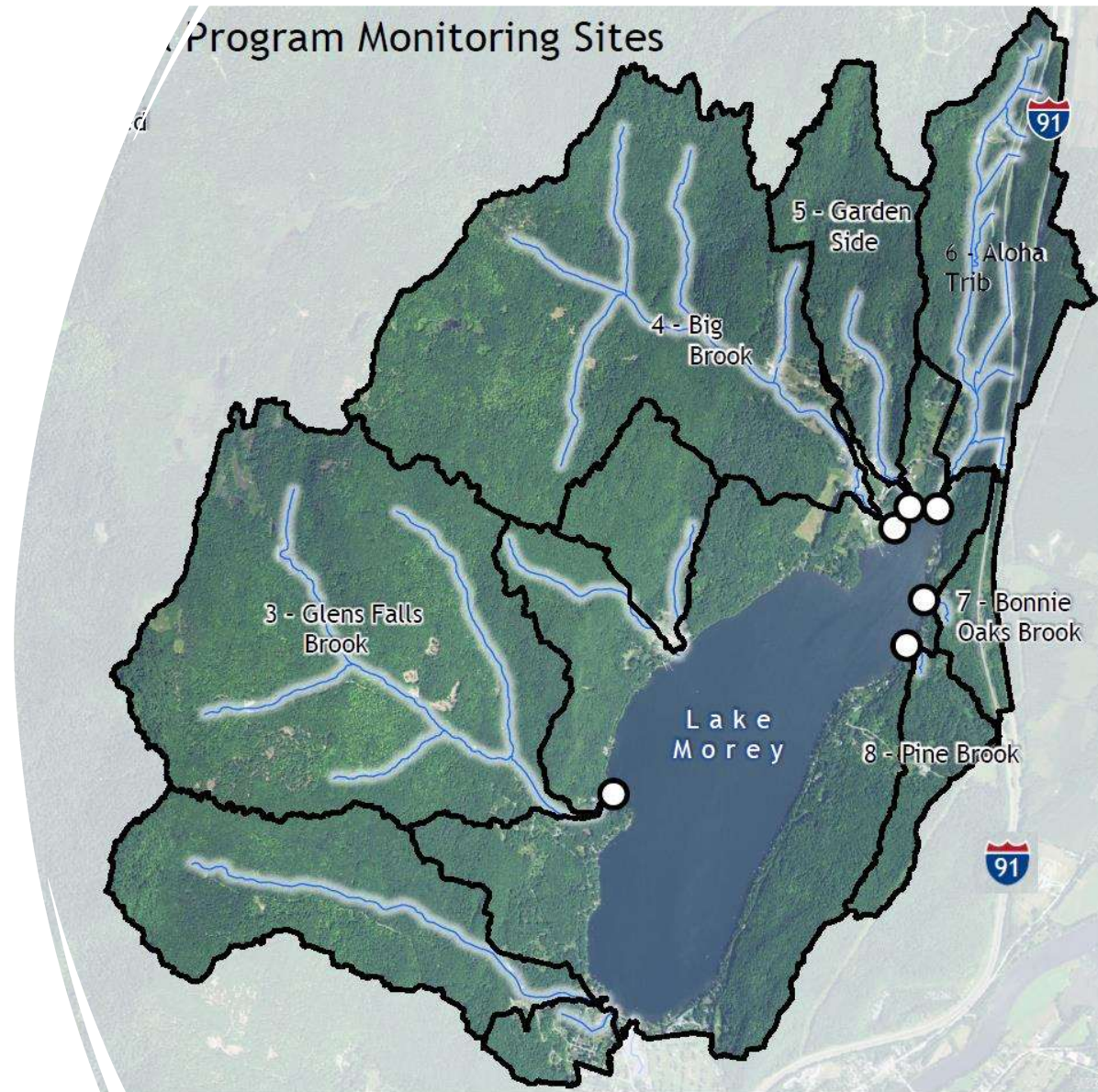


Questions?



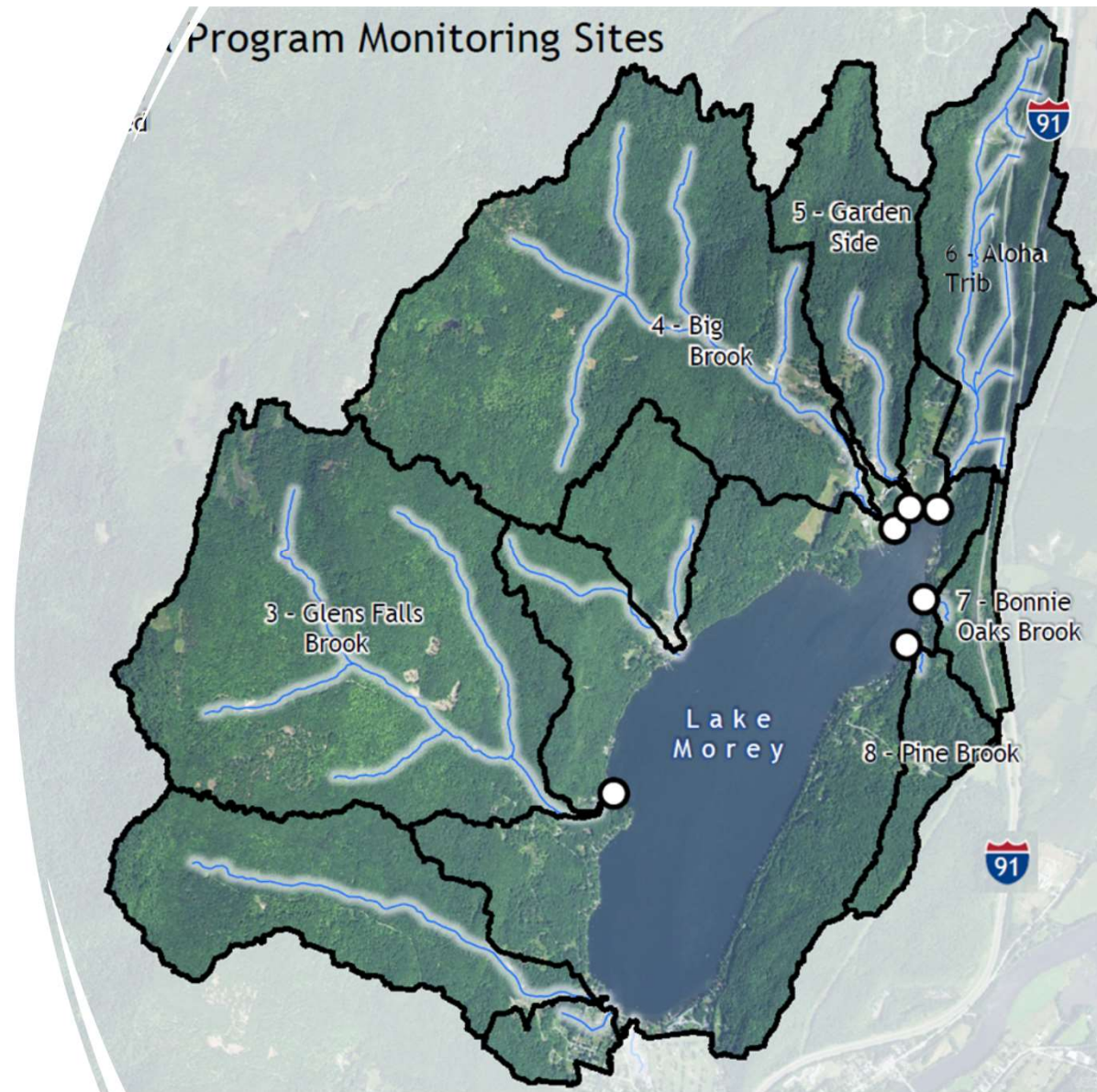
Tributary Monitoring

- Started monitoring in 2019
- Collected samples from 7 tributary streams
- Monitored June – September
- 8-10 sample events for each stream (2021)
- Watershed is mostly forested
- Developed area is the densest along the shoreline

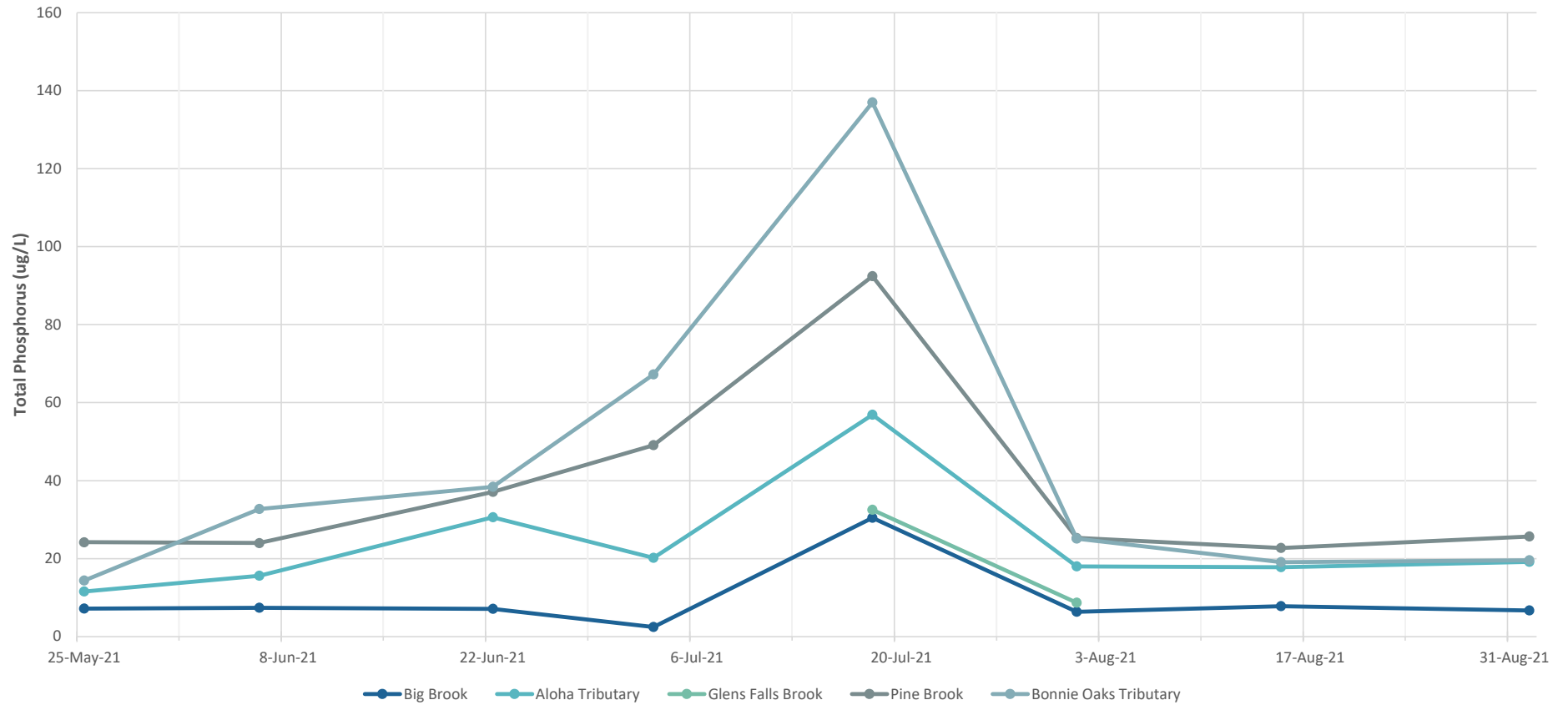


What We've Learned

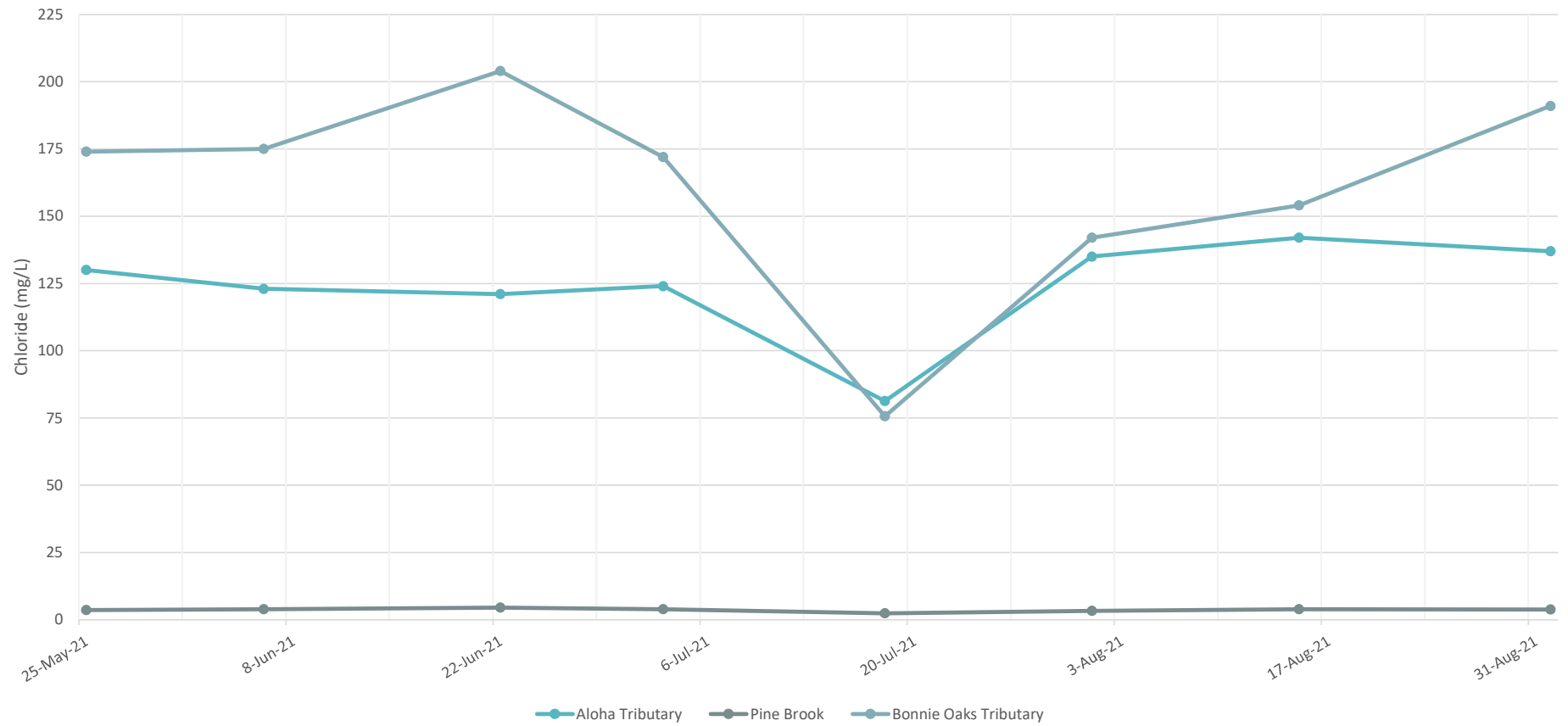
- Phosphorus concentrations are highest during flow events in all streams
- Pine Brook and Bonnie Oaks followed by Aloha Tributary have the highest phosphorus concentrations on average
- Chloride and sulfate levels are elevated in Bonnie Oaks Tributary and Aloha Tributary
- Big Brook and Glens Falls have low concentrations of all parameters monitored



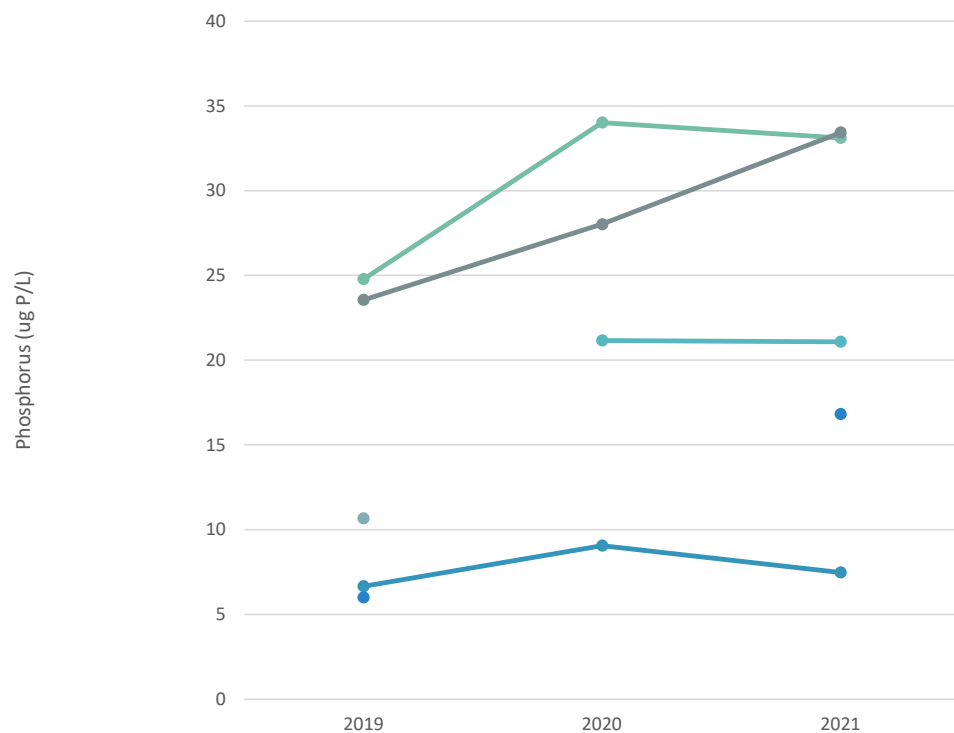
2021 Total Phosphorus Tributary Monitoring Results



2021 Chloride Tributary Monitoring Results

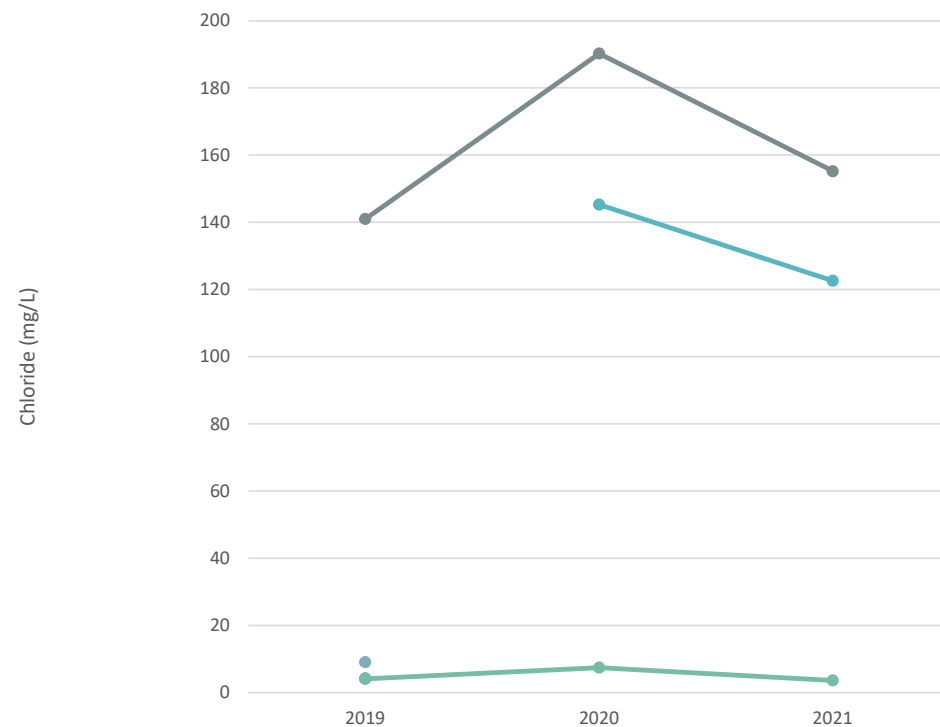


Annual Summer Geometric Mean of Total Phosphorus (ug P/L)



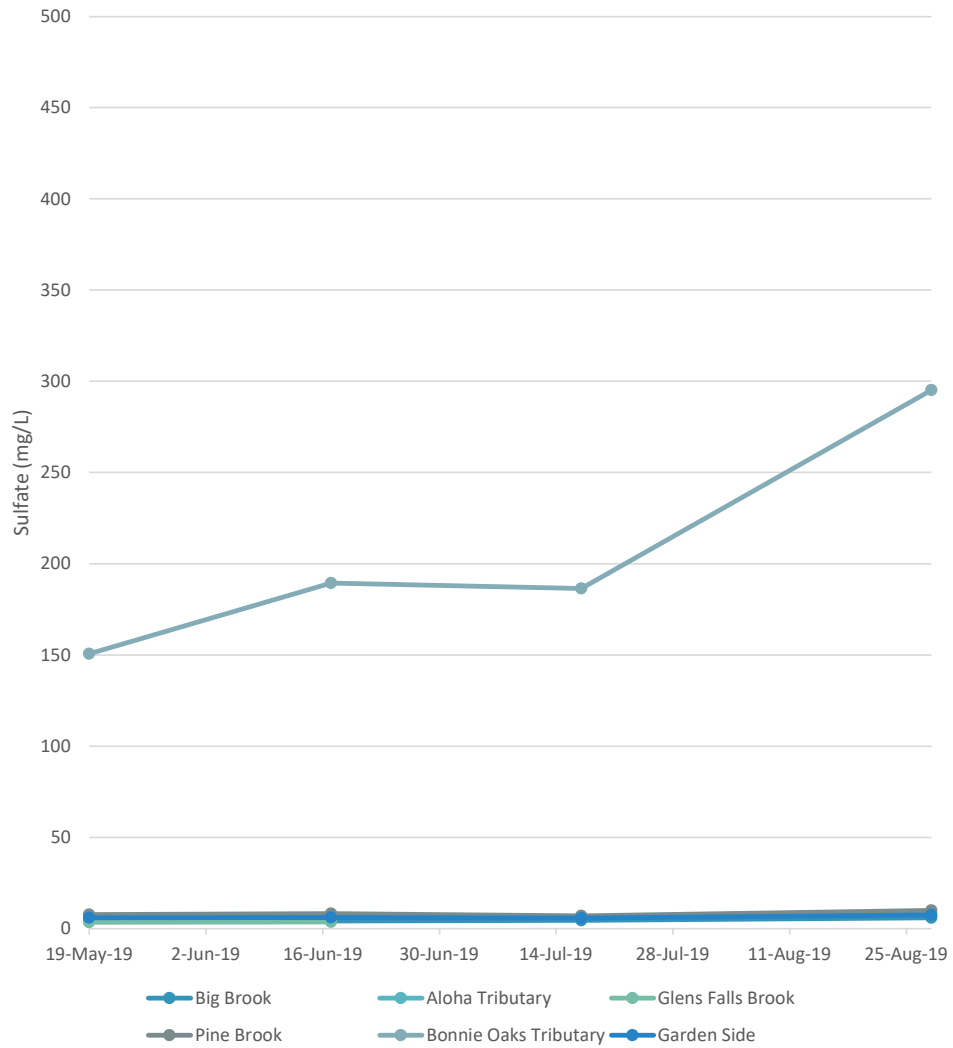
	2019	2020	2021
Big Brook	6.65	9.06	7.47
Aloha Tributary		21.16	21.09
Pine Brook	24.78	34.01	33.11
Bonnie Oaks Tributary	23.56	28.03	33.44
Garden Side	10.66		
Glens Falls Brook	6.00		16.82

Annual Summer Geometric Mean of Chloride (mg/L)

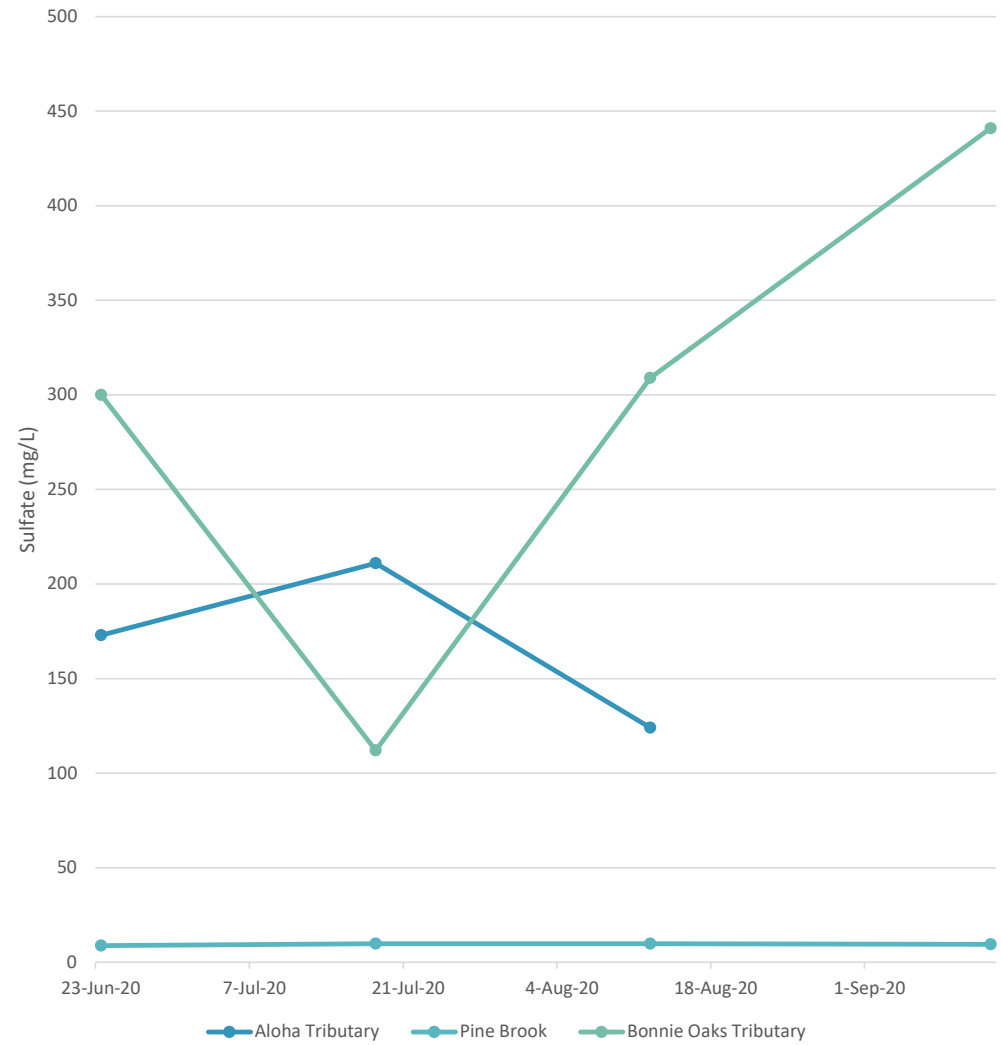


	2019	2020	2021
Big Brook	4.19		
Aloha Tributary		145.29	122.66
Pine Brook	4.14	7.47	3.61
Bonnie Oaks Tributary	140.99	190.25	155.24
Garden Side	9.03		

2019 Sulfate Tributary Monitoring Results



2020 Sulfate Tributary Monitoring Results



Lake Watershed Action Plan



LWAP is a planning exercise designed to identify, summarize, and communicate the problems and fixes within a lake watershed to best protect clean water, wildlife habitat, and the lake's ecosystem health.



DEC has issued a Request for Proposals to hire a service provider that can develop a Lake Watershed Action Plan for Lake Morey, starting later in 2022.

Recommendations



Continued monitoring through the Lay Monitoring Program, LaRosa Tributary Monitoring, and additional monitoring with SeaGrant



Community participation in the Lake Watershed Action Plan and implementation of priority actions identified



Assessment and implementation of Lake Wise at existing shoreland properties

The Three C's

